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VOL. XIX, 1916



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# Historical Register



JANUARY, 1916

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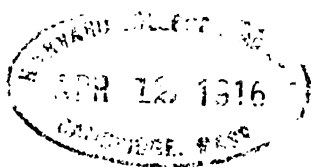
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the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_









# The Medford Historical Register.

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VOL. XIX.

APRIL, 1916.

No. 2.

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## SOME ERRORS IN MEDFORD'S HISTORIES.

I HAVE thought it proper to call the attention of the members of the Medford Historical Society, and through them the public, to the numerous errors concerning the early history of Medford that may be found in Mr. Charles Brooks' history, with which most of our members are familiar. I have, in this paper, made brief quotations from that history, and have endeavored to show wherein they are erroneous. I have been careful in pointing out these errors to correct only such as can be readily proved to be erroneous, and where this cannot be readily proved, to give such reasons for my disagreement as will appeal to my readers as good *arguments*, even if they fail to convince. I have taken great interest in the early history of Medford; my forebears, like those of Mr. Brooks, were among the early landholders of the plantation. It is on account of this interest that I presume to criticise Mr. Brooks' history, and for the same reason I also include the history of Mr. Usher, which is mainly a copy of that of Mr. Brooks. I have not attempted to point out *all* the errors of these historians; to do this would require a rewriting of much of both histories. In order to correctly understand this article one should have in hand Mr. Brooks' history for reference. These quotations are necessarily brief.

On page 1 may be found the following statement:—

This author (Josselyn) gives the name of Mistick to land on the north side of the river and reports a thriving population as then gathered between the two brick houses, called forts.

Josselyn is here *mis*-quoted. He does not speak of brick houses, nor were there any at that date (1638).



It was afterwards the intention of some to unite Mr. Cradock's, Mr. Winthrop's, Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Nowell's lands in one township and call it Mystic. [Page 2.]

There is no evidence of this.

Medford's bounds would have run to Malden river had not these four hundred acres intervened.

The land granted to Mr. Wilson did not include the marsh at the junction of Mystic and Malden rivers. The town of Charlestown owned the marshes and called the place Wilson's point.

The line ran north of Symmes' corner, and struck Symmes' river.

It was not until the year 1754 that the line ran as above stated. [See Vol. 2, page 53, of the HISTORICAL REGISTER.]

Mr. Tynge, Mr. Samuel Sheephart and Goodman Edward Converse, are to set out the bounds between Charlestown and Mr. Cradocks farm on the north side of Mistick river (Stoneham and Malden). [P. 3.]

Medford line did not touch Stoneham at that time. The Charlestown wood-lots lay between the two locations. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 53.]

Mistick fields.—The name of the land on the south side of Mystic river from Winter Hill to Medford Pond.

Mistick fields were on the north side of Mistick river (Malden and Everett). The land between Main street, Medford, and Menotomy river was called the Stinted pasture. And between Menotomy river and Medford pond was called the Line field. Creek Head creek was called Nowell's creek.

This river is felt to belong to Medford; for we may almost say that it has its beginning, continuance and end within the limits of our town. [P. 6.]

This may be considered quite a broad claim, as not much more than one-half its length is within Medford bounds, and its source is divided between Medford and Arlington. Its course from the pond to a point below the Boston and Lowell railroad bridge on the south side is divided between the town of Arlington and the city of Somerville.

The Ford in the center of Medford continued in use . . . till 1639 and was about ten rods above the bridge. [P. 7.]

The landing place of the ford on the north side of the river was through the Armory grounds. [REGISTER, Vol. 4, p. 1.]

There was until recently but one island in the river and that is near the shore in Malden.

There *was* also an island a few rods below Wier Bridge.

In 1761 — the inhabitants of Medford proposed to cut a canal across this peninsula (Labor in Vain) . . . the plan failed.

The canal *was* cut in 1761. [REGISTER, Vol. 3, p. 71.]

In the Wade family there is a tradition that their ancestor, Major Jonathan Wade gave to the town, about the year 1680, the landing place now occupied by Mr. J. T. Foster. [P. 8.]

This is merely tradition, there is no record of any such transaction, and further, the major never owned the land.

Brooks. [P. 9.]

Whitmore brook has its source in Bare hill meadow; Marble brook in Turkey swamp; Winter brook in the region south of Winter hill; Two Penny brook (which Mr. Brooks does not mention) has its source south and west of Walnut Tree hill (now College hill); Gravelly creek has its source in the region south of Spot pond.

Medford Records, . . . its first twenty-five or thirty pages are gone. [P. 27.]

The first book of records is complete. [REGISTER, Vol. 9, p. 20.] Also see History of Medford in the proceedings of the two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the settlement of Medford. [P. 14.]

This party from Salem, passing through Medford, were the first European feet that pressed the soil we now tread.

"We went up the Mystick river about six miles," . . . and the English eyes in that boat were the first eyes of settlers that looked upon these fields on which we now live. [P. 32.]

On the preceding page (31) is an account of a journey from Salem to Charlestown in the summer of 1628-9, from which I quote: —

. . . and the land lying on the east side of the river, called Mystick River, from the farm Mr. Cradock's servants had planted called Mystick, which this river led up unto ; . . .

Were the settlers who planted the farm in 1629 without feet, and were they blind?

He (Gov. Winthrop) called his place . . . The Ten Hills Farm . . . This favorite selection of the chief magistrate would naturally turn his thoughts to his fast friend Mathew Cradock and lead him to induce Mr. Cradock's men to settle in the neighborhood.

As has been shown, Mr. Cradock's men had planted a farm at Medford in 1629, over a year before Governor Winthrop came to New England. The occupation of the land and the planting of a farm is usually considered as a settlement, and therefore Medford was settled in 1629. There were good *reasons* why Medford was settled at that early date. The title to the land was in dispute. Governor Cradock suggested that the claim of John Oldham (who claimed under Robert Gorges) might be prevented by causing some to take possession of the chief part thereof. There is reason to believe that the farm at Mystick was planted in order to carry out the above suggestion. There is also reason to believe that those whom Governor Dudley speaks of as settlers upon Mystick, "which we named Meadford," were in the employ of Governor Cradock. The General Court never granted any land in Medford to any one except Governor Cradock, and no other person had any rights in the soil, and this shows that all the settlers of Medford must have been bound to serve Mr. Cradock previous to leaving England. All settlers who were *not* so bound would naturally settle in places where they could obtain rights in the soil which could not be so obtained in Medford at that time. Quite a number of our early settlers came to New England, bound to persons who advanced the necessary passage money, and were under contract to serve their masters a specified time, to reimburse them for their outlay.

The Governor had the care of Mr. Cradock's men . . . [P. 33.]

Mr. Cradock's business was in charge of agents both before and after Governor Winthrop came to New England. [REGISTER, Vol. 9, No. 1.]

The 28th of September, 1630, Medford was taxed £3. for the support of military teachers. Nov. 30, 1630, another tax of £3. was levied. [P. 33.]

These taxes were levied upon Meadford plantation and were paid by Mr. Cradock or his agents, not by the town, as Mr. Brooks would imply, there being no town government at that time.

. . . but not a word of complaint reaches us from the first planters of Medford and no one to our knowledge, left the plantation. [P. 35.]

As has been shown, the first settlers of Medford were the servants of Mr. Cradock, and when his enterprises failed and (after his death), the plantation was sold to different parties, these servants of Mr. Cradock no doubt left for parts unknown, and the true settlers, the "fathers of Medford," came into the possession of the land.

In Medford were built three of these strong brick citadels . . . [P. 35.]

It has been already asserted that these houses were *not* built at that early date. [REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 49.]

It is ordered that no person shall plant [settle] in any place within the limits of this patent, without leave from the Governor and Assistants, or the major part of them. [P. 35.]

This extract confirms my previous statement that the first settlers of Medford had no rights in the soil. Mr. Cradock was the only person to receive a grant of early Medford soil.

The following owned lands in Medford before 1680. [P. 37.]

This list is not correct.

It is ordered . . . [P. 37.]

This was an order for the survey of lands, etc., and did not apply to Medford.

As soon as Gov. Winthrop had settled himself on the Ten-Hill Farm, in 1630, he recommended Gov. Cradock's men to plant

themselves directly opposite him on the north side of the river . . . [P. 39.]

The location above described was the land granted to the Rev. Mr. Wilson, April 1, 1634, and there is not the slightest evidence that Mr. Cradock's men built the house referred to, or that there was any house on the land until after the date of Mr. Wilson's grant. Mr. Cradock's men were then located in what is now Medford square, where the travelers from Salem found them in the summer of 1629.

May 25, 1661.—Richard Russell who had occupied the "Mansion House" five years, sold it, with twelve hundred acres of his land, to Jonathan Wade who lived near the bridge on the south side of the river. [P. 41.]

The Jonathan Wade who bought land of Mr. Russell was of Ipswich, and father of Jonathan and Nathaniel Wade of Medford. Neither of the Wades owned land on the *south* side of the river or lived there.

This tract is now the most thickly settled part of Medford. [P. 42.]

This should read the most sparsely settled part of Medford.

Oct. 20, 1656: James Garrett . . . sells for £5. to Edward Collins, forty acres of land . . . butting on Mistick Pond on the west. March 13, 1657: Samuel Adams sold to Ed. Collins 40 acres of land . . . bounded on the south by Meadford Farm . . . Paid £10. [P. 42.]

Neither of these grantors lived in Medford, and the lots were part of the Charlestown wood-lots, and were included in the land sold to Messrs. Brooks and Wheeler in the year 1660.

Collins to Michelson. [P. 42.]

This lot was not in Medford.

March 13, 1675. Caleb Hobart sells to Ed. Collins . . . [P. 42.]

This was a mortgage.

Mr. Nicholas Davison . . . who lived near Mr. Wade . . . [P. 42.]

Mr. Davison left Medford years before Mr. Wade came here.



1658 In answer to the petition of the inhabitants of Mistick . . .  
[P. 43.]

The location of the Mistick referred to was the present location of the city of Everett.

Mr. Wade . . . came over in 1632. [P. 43.]

This Mr. Wade settled in Ipswich and was the father of Jonathan and Nathaniel Wade of Medford.

The first bounds of lots cannot now be traced. [P. 43.]

See REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 49, for map showing division of lots.

The Squa Sachem, residing in Medford, Aug. 1, 1637, gives lands to Jotham Gibbon . . . [P. 43.]

The Squa Sachem lived on the west side of Mystic ponds, and the land given to Jotham Gibbon was on the same side. This deed included the Mystic ponds. Mr. Cradock's boundary was the eastern shore of the *lower* pond.

Jonathan Wade . . . bought land on the south side of the river.  
[P. 43.]

As has before been stated, Jonathan Wade did not own land on the *south* side of river.

Governor Cradock's House. [P. 46.]

Much has been said in regard to this ancient house, and many persons still labor under the delusion that this house was built by Governor Cradock's agent in 1634, as asserted by Mr. Brooks. Governor Cradock's grant was made March 4, 1634-5. According to the present style of computing time this grant was made in 1635, one year later than the date given by Mr. Brooks. The so-called port-holes must have been ornaments, for they are placed so high in the wall that it would be necessary for the gunner to stand upon a table in order to shoot through the opening, and even then he could not see his enemy unless he was at some distance from the house. Mr. Brooks says, on page 47, that

Outside shutters were in common use in England at the time above mentioned; and so it was common to ornament houses with round or oval openings on each side of the front.

Now let us consider the arguments for and against the identity of this house as being the work of Governor Cradock's agents. First, we have Mr. Brooks' arguments as given in his history. And the only other is that obtained from a letter written by Mr. Cradock, dated March 15, 1636-7, in which he says, "I think I shall be forced to be a suitor for some land at Shawsheen, the best of mine, as I am informed, near my house, being allotted to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Nowell . . ." The only knowledge Mr. Cradock could have obtained as to the location of his land must have come from the crude maps of that period, and he, being three thousand miles distant, might well say that land in a sparsely settled country like that on the banks of the Mistick, was near his house, when it was only about a mile and one-half distant therefrom.

On the other hand, let us examine the several deeds conveying Meadford plantation after it passed out of the possession of Mr. Cradock's heirs. In Middlesex South District Deeds, Book 2, page 325, may be found a deed from Edward Collins of Medford, to Richard Russell of Charlestown, "1600 acres of land part of Meadford Plantation with Mansion house and other buildings. Bounded easterly on Nowell's farm (and) Blanchard's farm. . . . Southerly with Mistick river. Northerly with Charlestown line, on the west with an oak tree marked R. C.\* standing on the west side of a brook that runs into that part of the Marshland which lyeth on the west side of said Mansion house, . . . and the brook † into which the said brook runs, is the westerly bounds of the said marsh, . . . Excepting from the above, 12 acres of the meadows lying by Mistick river next unto the land of the said Edward Collins."

These twelve acres of marsh land above described are bounded by Marble brook (it being the brook mentioned above) on the west, Mystic river on the south, north on

\* Evidently meaning Russell and Collins.

† Brook here means the creek, or lower reach of the stream which is affected by the tides.

the upland between High street and said marshland. It included that point of marshland that was cut off, when a new channel of the river was made by Messrs. Curtis and Stetson, shipbuilders, as a passageway for their ships. This point of marshland or island has been removed by recent improvements made in the river. The easterly part of these twelve acres is the land in the rear of the Armory building. This deed shows that the Mansion house therein spoken of could *not* have been the so-called Cradock house.

In Book 3, page 397, of the abovesaid records, Richard Russell of Charlestown sells to Jonathan Wade of Ipswich " $\frac{3}{4}$  part of the land purchased of Edward Collins, with all buildings." Mr. Russell reserved the other one-quarter part adjoining Blanchard's farm, viz.: one-quarter part of the meadow and one-quarter part of all other lands, "which were of that part that is *furthest from the dwelling house,*" and "adjoining that farm which was Mr. Nowell's, and to Blanchard's as above." Here we have the Mansion house described in the deed of Collins to Russell called a *dwelling house* by Russell to Wade. *They are identical.*

Next in Book 8, page 35, of the records aforesaid, we have a deed from "Richard Russell, Executor of the will of his father Richard Russell, Senior, to Peter Tufts of Charlestown, of 350 acres of land more or less, part of Meadford plantation . . . being  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of that farm which Mr. Collins sold to said Russell, and hath thereon one dwelling house and barn. . . ." Bounded northerly with Charlestown line, southerly with Mistick river, westerly with Mr. Wade's land, easterly on land of the said Peter Tufts (this land of Tufts was the Nowell farm). The date of this deed was April 20, 1677.

Again in Book 8, page 36, of the records before mentioned, Peter Tufts, Senior, of Charlestown, sells to Peter Tufts, Junior, of Meadford (commonly called Captain Peter), " $\frac{1}{2}$  part of the farm bought of Richard Russell bounded westerly by Mr. Nathaniel Wade's land, easterly

by Peter Tufts senior, southerly by Nathaniel Wade's meadow, northerly by Peter Tufts senior, . . . with all the Housings thereupon." This is the land upon which stands the brick house, misnamed the Cradock house. The deed is dated November 26, 1680. That this sale did *not* include the one dwelling-house and barn mentioned in the deed from Executor Russell to Tufts, will be shown by quoting from the will of Peter Tufts, Senior: "I give to my son Peter, 20 acres of upland lying next his house, and the dwelling house standing thereon; he paying his brother John for the barn standing upon said land." This dwelling-house is the same house mentioned in the deed from Richard Russell, executor, to Peter Tufts, Senior.

To trace this *old* house still further, reference may be had to a deed, dated April 1, 1728. Peter Tufts, Junior, sold to Edward Oakes four acres and thirteen poles of land, "with an *old house* upon it." *This* was the same house, and a portion of the twenty acres *bequeathed*, not sold, to Capt. Peter Tufts by his father, Peter Tufts, Senior. To conclude the history of *this* "old house," reference may be had to an inventory of the estate of Edward Oakes of Medford. The old house was mentioned as a part of his estate, and in the division of the estate it was set off to his son Edward with twelve and one-half acres of land. [REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 49.]

The other old brick house, built about the same time, . . . (*i.e.*, 1634.) [P. 48.]

This house was built by Nathaniel Wade, brother to Jonathan. It stood about fifty feet each way from Park street and Riverside avenue. It was probably built about the time that his brother Jonathan's was.

The third house was built by Major Jonathan Wade who died in 1689. . . . When first built it was only half its present size. [P. 48.]

By reference to the division of Major Wade's estate in Volume 4, page 48, of the REGISTER, it will be seen that one-half of the present house could hardly contain

the number of rooms therein spoken of. This house was built between 1683 and 1689.

Built by his father, after the model of an English nobleman's house in Antigua . . . [P. 50.]

For a description of the Royall house see REGISTER, Vol. 3, p. 133.

To have free access to the river, the great highway, they opened private roads for the use of owners of lands, and what were called "rangeways" for the free use of the public. . . . [P. 51.]

All the roads to the river were laid out by private parties for their own use, and for such other persons as might be granted the right to use them. There is not a landing place on the north side of the river in which the public has, or ever had, any rights, except it may have been the landing at the ford, while the ford was in use. This situation is owing to the fact that all of early Medford territory was under one ownership; and also to the neglect of the officials to lay out these ways for the benefit of the public when the time arrived that they could legally do so. Some years ago the town of Medford claimed rights in the way and landing at Rock hill. A suit was brought to test the ownership thereof. The case was decided in favor of the owner of the land through which the way passed, upon the general ground that the public right (if it ever existed) had been lost by long-continued disuse. There were *no* rangeways in Medford while it retained its *original* area. Cross and Fulton streets, as far as the "Rock gate" (and from thence two ways to the wood-lots), were laid out by the *town of Charlestown*, by an agreement with Mr. Nathaniel Wade, the owner of the land through which these ways passed. This agreement was made May 13, 1698. Pasture hill and Ram Head lanes were laid out by the proprietors of the land through which they passed. Whatever rights the public had (if any) therein, were acquired by long-continued use. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 53.] There were rangeways on the south side of the river laid out by the town of Charlestown while that town owned the land

bordering on the river. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 53, and Vol. 15, p. 46.] The first roads laid out in Medford were Main street, then called the Charlestown road; Salem street, called Salem path to Mistick ford, also the road to Malden; Woburn road, from Medford square to Woburn. A portion of this road (from the square to Brooks' corner) is now High street, and High street continues to Arlington line over what was called the way to the Wears. There is another way to be mentioned in connection with these roads, although, like the greater part of Main street, it was originally in the town of Charlestown — South street. It was first called the way to the ford, still later, Fish-house lane. It is impossible to tell to which of these roads should be given the claim of priority.

In 1715 . . . they fixed the width of the road at the bridge at two rods and twelve feet. . . . [P. 52.]

The width of the bridge was then fourteen feet, and eight feet was added from each post at the foot of the bridge, making the width of the road at the bridge thirty feet. The width, at the corner of High and Main streets, was fixed at four rods; and at the southwest corner of the present Mystic church lot the width was fixed at two rods and twelve feet. This line cut off ten feet from the north corner of the great barn. [REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 41.]

March 9, 1761. Many inhabitants of the town petitioned the Court of Sessions for a *road* across the marshes at Labor in Vain . . . [P. 54.]

This was not for a road, but for the cutting of a canal across Labor in Vain point, in order to straighten the river. [REGISTER, Vol. 4, P. 71.]

Mr. Cradock's Agent (Davison) commenced the building of a bridge over the river in 1638. [P. 59.]

This bridge is shown upon a *map* made in the year 1637; it was finished by order of the General Court in 1639; it was, no doubt, in use in 1638. The bridge was one hundred and fifty-four feet and five inches long and



about ten feet wide at that time. The town of Charlestown brought a suit against Mr. Davison for stopping up Mistick river with a bridge, to the hinderance of boats, and for taxing cattle that go over the bridge. July 17, 1688, the board of selectmen of the town of Charlestown and commissioners from the towns of Medford, Malden, Woburn and Reading met to consider measures for a division of Mistick bridge among the several towns required by law to mend and maintain it. These commissioners agreed that Medford, Malden, Woburn and Reading should pay to the town of Charlestown, five pounds in "good pay," viz.: in corn or the like, for the present amending of the southerly half of Mistick bridge, and that in the future and for all time to come, the said southerly half of said bridge (being seventy-seven feet two and one-half inches in length), should be mended and maintained by the said town of Charlestown, and the northerly half thereof (being of like length) should be mended and maintained by the other towns above named. These four towns, charged with the care of the northerly half of the bridge, made a division of the same so that each town had a specified share to care for. The record of this division is lost, but it appears from other documents that Medford's share was next to the open arch. From the records of Malden we learn that, November 29, 1689, Malden worked at Mistick bridge, with cart and four oxen, and three hands to gravel the bridge. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 1.]

The renowned Sachem of the Pawtuckets, Nanepashemit . . . [P. 72.]

Mr. Brooks places the residence of the sachem on Rock hill. Of this there is no evidence. He also quotes from Winslow (see page 73 of the history), but he omits a very important part of the narrative. Winslow says, "We discovered Mistick river but did not explore it." Some historians locate the places described as being in Medford. It would have been impossible for these explorers to stand on Rock hill and ignore the presence of

the Mistick river, which would have been spread out before them, both east and west.

He may have first stopped opposite Winthrop's farm, at Ten Hills, and there done something in the fishing business. . . . [P. 88.]

This extract conveys a wrong impression, inasmuch as Mr. Brooks was well aware that Mr. Cradock never came to New England.

And who, in a letter of April 17, 1629, speaks of the settlement of families here in these terms. . . . [P. 89.]

Here is an admittance by Mr. Brooks that Medford was settled in 1629.

After his death, a part of his farm in Medford was sold to Mr. Ed. Collins. . . . [P. 93.]

Mr. Collins bought the whole farm.

For the ordering of Prudentials, . . . [P. 100.]

(Oct. 13, 1684.) It was agreed upon at a general meeting of the inhabitants, by a vote, to petition to the General Court, to grant us power and privilege as other Towns for the ordering of prudentials amongst us. [Medford Records.]

The court declared "that Meadford hath been, and is, a *peculiar*, and have power as other towns as to prudentials." Mr. Brooks misquotes the answer of the General Court. This declaration of the General Court did not imply that Medford had *all* the rights that were enjoyed by the other towns of the colony. The order of the General Court, passed June 2, 1641, "That all farms that are within the bounds of any town, shall be of the town in which they lie, except Meadford," fixed the status of Meadford plantation; it was a farm or plantation, and not a town, at that date.

Medford a Town. [P. 119.]

Mr. Frothingham, author of the History of Charlestown, says "that Medford was not a town." Mr. Brooks good-naturedly dissents from this statement, and shows cause. Let us, in turn, dissent from Mr. Brooks' statements, and show cause.

From 1629, the date of the settlement of Medford, to

1656, the plantation was under one ownership. All taxes levied, or fines imposed upon the plantation, or upon any of the servants therein employed, were paid by the owners thereof. There was nothing in any way resembling a town government. As has been before stated, the General Court, in 1641, called Meadford a *farm*, and a farm or plantation it continued to be, until the time when it was divided and sold to different parties. That a change took place in the status of the farm or plantation soon after Mr. Collins sold one thousand two hundred acres of his land to Mr. Russell, is shown by the orders of the County Court, which were issued for the first time to Meadford. June 25, 1658. "Meadford is enjoined to repair their Highways before the next term of Court. on penalty of forty shillings." Also, "the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> month 1664, the inhabitants of Meadford were summoned into Court, to answer to complaints about Mistick Bridge. Golden Moore returned that the bridge is repaired." The question then arose, "What proportion of the taxes levied, and fines imposed upon the plantation or farm, should be paid by each individual owner?" For the settlement of these questions it became necessary that the several owners should meet together to consult in regard to their common interests, and thus the nucleus of a town government was formed, a peculiar, as the General Court termed it.\* There was no authority for calling these meetings, and the business pertaining to their common interests were, no doubt, transacted by committees. No record was kept of their proceedings. This condition of affairs continued until the increased liabilities of the plantation demanded that an organization resembling a town government should be formed, and persons chosen to take charge of their prudential affairs. The first recorded meeting of the inhabitants of the Meadford plantation was held the first Monday in February, 1674, and Mr. Nathaniel Wade was chosen

\* "The word peculiar, in Colonial and Provincial Massachusetts, meant a parish, precinct or district not yet erected into a town, . . . [REGISTER, Vol. 9, p. 25.]

constable for the year ensuing. In 1676 they chose their first board of selectmen, in 1679 the first highway surveyor, in 1680 the first tithing-man and the first sealer of measures, in 1681-2 the first fence viewers, in 1689 the first representative to the General Court, and in 1693 their first orders and by-laws were approved by the court.

Reference has been made to the action of the inhabitants of the plantation in voting to petition the General Court to grant power and privileges as other towns for the ordering of prudentials. This action of the said inhabitants proves beyond question that they were aware that they were not organized as were the other towns of the colony. They knew the measures that had been taken to advance the interests of the plantation, and they felt that the time had arrived when they should be granted the same rights and privileges as the other towns of the colony. It is to be noted that up to this time they called their organization a *plantation*. They evidently knew what their political status was much better than the historians of the present day. A study of the records of the General Court will reveal the standing of Meadford plantation at the period under consideration. From 1630 to 1638 (both inclusive) Meadford plantation was taxed in the same proportion as were the other plantations of the colony. May 13, 1640, a tax of one thousand two hundred pounds was levied on every town. Meadford is *not* named. Also at the same date a committee of the court was chosen to value the live stock in every town; no mention of Meadford is made. December 10, 1641, an order was passed concerning the authorization of constables to serve warrants; in the list of towns Meadford is *not* mentioned. At the same date an order was passed that in every town "one shall be appointed to grant summons and attachments in all civil actions." Nineteen copies of the laws, liberties and the forms of oaths were transcribed "for the use of the persons who may be appointed; said persons to be called clerks of the writs." Nineteen towns are named; Meadford *not* men-

tioned. May 29, 1644, an order was passed by the General Court "that henceforth these towns (according to the entry) as also all other towns that already are or hereafter shall be erected within this jurisdiction shall (according to their antiquity) take their places of precedency, both in the transacting of the affairs of this house, as also in all such other occasions, as may fall out within this Colony respecting such precedency of place." Twenty-four towns are named; Meadford is *not* in the list.\*

When Deputy Governor Dudley, and those with him came to this neighborhood, they visited several places; they named one Boston . . . another Meadford, . . . [P. 120.]

This action by Dudley and his associates does not alter the fact that Meadford was settled prior to the arrival of the above party. There is a good reason why the farm that Governor Cradock's servants had planted should be given a distinctive name. All the land on the north side of Mystic river, from Mystic pond to the creek (now known as Island-end river) which separates the cities of Everett and Chelsea, was called Mistick, or Mistick-side; also, the land on the south side of the river was called Mistick. In 1631 the Court of Assistants granted to Governor Winthrop six hundred acres of land, "to be set forth by metes and bounds, near his house at Mistick, . . ." [See map in REGISTER, Vol. 1, p. 123.] July 4, 1631, the governor's bark, the *Blessing of the Bay*, was launched at Mistick. The governor's house, as shown on the map above referred to, was on the easterly slope of Winter hill, near the Medford line, within the present limits of the city of Somerville.

May 11, 1649, "In answer to a petition of several inhabitants of Mistick-side, their request is granted, viz.:

\* "1658, May 26. In answer to the request of the inhabitants of Meadford, it is ordered, that all matters of a civil nature arising within their peculiar — proper to the cognizance of three Commissioners for ending small cases, be heard and determined by the Commissioners of Cambridge." [In the record a word is omitted after the word peculiar.]

To be a distinct town of themselves & the name to be Maulden.”\*

The celebrated Rev. James Noyes became the pastor and teacher of the inhabitants of Medford in 1634 . . . [P. 121.]

At the first meeting of the Court of Assistants holden at Charlestown, August 23, A.D. 1630, “It was propounded how the ministers should be maintained, Mr. Wilson & Mr. Phillips only propounded.” November 30, 1630, “It is ordered, that there shall be £60. collected out of the several plantations, . . . for the maintainance of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Phillips, viz.: Boston, Watertown, Charlton, Roxbury, Meadford, Winnett-semett.”

Here we have the names of the pastors and teachers of six plantations, and Meadford’s share of the levy was £3. It is not at all reasonable to suppose that Meadford, one of the smaller plantations in the colony, had a pastor and teacher in 1634 in addition to those appointed by the court, and for whose support Meadford had been taxed £3. Mr. Brooks’ whole argument concerning “Medford a Town” is based upon statements that are not in accordance with facts.

*Ecclesiastical History.* [P. 200.]

In this chapter Mr. Brooks again speaks of Mr. James Noyes as a preacher in Medford in 1634, and in a quotation says, “. . . was immediately called to preach at Mistick, which he did for nearly one year.” It has already been shown that the word Mistic or Mistick was applied to nearly, if not all, the land on both sides of the river, and also that the same name was applied to a settlement and river, now within the limits of the state of Connecticut.

After he left Medford, the inhabitants received religious instructions from Rev. Mr. Wilson and Rev. Mr. Phillips.

As has been shown heretofore, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Phillips were appointed the official ministers of six planta-

\* There was also a place called Mistick, and a Mistick river mentioned in the Colonial Records, over which the Bay Colony had jurisdiction. It is now within the limits of the state of Connecticut.



tions, including Meadford, and these plantations were taxed for their support before Mr. Noyes was alleged to have been located in Meadford.

There are many more errors to which attention might be called, but time and space forbid.

—JOHN H. HOOPER.

### MEDFORD'S MYTHICAL APPLE.

Historian of the town was he,

They say he spun a quaint old yarn

About, — and climbed the 'Pecker apple tree.

*With apologies to Dr. Holmes.*

It was a little over sixty years ago that a very readable and interesting story was written of two young men who walked twenty-four miles to attend a Harvard professor's scientific lectures. The younger was seventeen years old, and had a few years before been taught by a Mr. Hill of Medford. He lived in North Woburn, and may or may not have walked thither, but those were pre-automobile days in 1770.

Of so much of the story there is no doubt; Parson Sewall, historian of Woburn, tells the same story. He, however, says nothing about the "contemplation" by these young men of "tempting red cheeks, on loaded boughs," in Upper Medford or elsewhere. (Of course the red cheeks were those of apples.)

Readable and interesting *stories* are, as Mr. Trowbridge told the writer (relative to "Tinkham Brothers' Tide Mill"), "*mainly fiction*," woven around some historic fact or incident that comes to public attention. The Baldwin apple had come into prominence some fifty years before this entertaining story, claiming Medford as its origination, was written. Governor Brooks had known Colonel Baldwin, and, himself in advanced years, tells his young kinsman Charles about the origin of the Baldwin apple, formerly called the Woodpecker, or, for short, the 'Pecker, and that the tree was on the Samuel Thompson farm. And at his request, in 1813, this spry young man of eighteen years visits the tree, *i.e.*, a tree on a

Samuel Thompson's farm. Woburn in those days adjoined Medford, and there were "a regiment of Thompsons in Woburn." One of them, Samuel by name, had a farm just over the line in Upper Medford, and on it, "forty or fifty rods south of the black horse tavern," was the tree the young Mr. Brooks visited. The real Samuel Thompson farm (on which was the tree grafted from the original Woodpecker tree in Wilmington) was seven miles from Mr. Brooks' home; this only two. "It was very old and partly decayed, but bore fruit abundantly." He said he "climbed it." He also tells about the woodpeckers' holes, which he might equally well have found on other trees. Doubtless he thought he had located the tree, mentioned by the governor, on Samuel Thompson's farm in Woburn. Because the fruit resembled the Baldwin, he claimed it as the real Woodpecker tree.

Tewksbury, Burlington, Somerville, and Baldwin (Maine) have claimed the original tree, but the *facts* would seem to be finally fixed by the letter of Colonel Baldwin to Governor Bowdoin, February 13, 1784, when he sent him a "barrel of a particular species of apple which proceeded from a Tree, that originally grew spontaneously in the woods about fourteen miles north of Boston," and Colonel Baldwin *knew the facts*.

Space forbids citing the various arguments in the famous controversy. They were carefully considered by Rev. Leander Thompson of Woburn, in an able article of twenty-four pages, published thirty years ago in the *Winchester Record*. We commend a careful perusal of this, which includes "the Medford claim" of Mr. Brooks, as showing how easily errors creep into public print, and if unquestioned, into public belief. Also, even refuted, they still come into public notice, as did this one in a public gathering in Medford a year since. This is no reflection on the worthy and respected townsman who repeated it in good faith; nor yet on its original author, who was enthusiastic for Medford—but he claimed too much for her, in this as well as in other ways.

### AN OLD MEDFORD SCHOOLBOY.

On February 10, at New Bedford, there passed away one, a native of Medford (and whose boyhood days were spent here), who is kindly remembered by his old associates still living. These lines are not intended as obituary; rather an appreciative mention of one we have never met, or even heard of, till in recent years.

Thomas Meriam Stetson was the son of Rev. Caleb Stetson, the second Unitarian pastor of Medford's First Parish. His birth occurred in the house on High street, later the home of Rev. Charles and Miss Lucy Ann Brooks, June 15, 1830. His later boyhood home was the parsonage house, erected on the site of the present St. Joseph's parochial residence. His early education was in the schools of Medford (public and private), and his college course was at Harvard, graduating there in 1849. After study in the Dane Law School, he was admitted to the bar in 1854.



His father's pastorate (of twenty-one years) in Medford closed in 1848, prior to the son's graduation, and this may account for the settlement of this Medford boy elsewhere. He began the practise of law in New Bedford, in 1854, associated himself with an eminent and established law firm, and himself attained and maintained high rank. This is evidenced by the important cases of

both public and private business with which he had to do. After a long and successful career, he was succeeded by his sons, under the name of Stetson & Stetson; but he kept up his daily visits to the office, retaining the service of coachman and "sleek horse" instead of modern automobile.

A few years since, the REGISTER's editor was happily surprised in receiving a letter from Mr. Stetson, which by his permission appeared in our columns (Vol. XIII, p. 93), and which was of much interest. From time to time he wrote us encouraging and appreciative letters, indicative of his interest in the REGISTER and of his boyhood's home and haunts. One day when we were absent from Medford for months, he sent a carefully prepared article (Vol. XVII, p. 73), that in our need at the time was "a bridge that brought us safely over." It was our wish to have presented his likeness with the "Medford Octogenarians" but his modesty forbade; and so the old schoolhouse he knew was substituted.

By the courtesy of the New Bedford *Evening Standard* we are now able to do so.

In the stress of his professional life, Mr. Stetson had not been in Medford for years, and upon receiving the map of the city he requested, found it difficult to locate some old places by present names. Consequently, an article he intended to prepare, came from the able pen of our townsman Hooper (Vol. XVIII, p. 25), and in this, Mr. Stetson expressed a lively interest and satisfaction. It was our intent in the spring to visit him, and hear from his own lips something of our home city in the old days.

His son informs us that he awaited with interest the REGISTER's coming, and read with pleasure its last number; and only the day before his passing away told of his boyhood pleasures along the old canal's banks and especially of the great aqueduct over the river. We would have been pleased to have welcomed him in our *editorial sanctum*, from whose pleasant windows he might

have viewed the locality as it now is, and in which he would have been interested.

From the *Standard* we quote:

In his fine, large estate, on Ash street, Mr. Stetson showed his love for nature, by gathering many of the most beautiful trees and shrubs. In his hothouses, he has grown many strange and curious forms of vegetation, — oranges, figs, bananas, century plants, lovely orchids from far corners of the world, and lordly palms.

There is something pleasant in the thought, even in the solemn presence of death, that he was privileged to live his best years amid such beautiful surroundings, and there die at last at an age to which few men attain.

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#### MEDFORD RUINS REMOVED.

It is rarely that a dwelling built of good material and fair workmanship, with but fifteen years occupancy, goes to ruin, becomes a menace, and is demolished within forty-five years of its building, in a residential locality.

In the winter of 1870 and '71, S. B. Brock, carpenter, who lived in the "Gamage corner," built for Erastus F. Brockway on Cottage street a ten-room, two-story house, with mansard roof of slate and tin. After a few years the elderly owner sold it and removed from town. The new owner and occupant improved it, adding a two-story bay-window that overlooked the vacant land which extended to Prescott street and was bordered and crossed by Whitmore brook. Twenty-nine years ago the family left it and it was ever after vacant. After a time the lawless element began to trespass therein, windows were broken, and at least once it was set on fire. Later the tin roof became rusty and loosened and subject to the winds, which finally stripped it. Then the rains and melting snow got in destructive work, and plunderers followed with theirs. Several unavailing efforts were made by citizen neighbors for its removal by municipal action. We are told its final demolition was at the instance of the state authorities, because of fire hazard. Its removal is certainly a relief to the neighborhood and improvement to the city. That it withstood the destructive

elements so long is due both to the quality of material and construction. Many of those erected in this and other cities within the last ten years, under the same conditions of neglect and exposure, would succumb to the destructive forces of nature in less time, and that, too, despite the improvements of which we boast.

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### HISTORY FOR MEDFORD SCHOOLS.

A Medford teacher has recently prepared such a work, advance sheets of which have been submitted to us for inspection. They give evidence of much thought and labor in their preparation, quote authorities, and refer to many writings. As a matter of course, the printed histories of Medford are frequently quoted or referred to. After sending the author our criticisms, we gave the sheets to former President Hooper, which has led to the preparation of his article in our present issue.

Mr. Brooks' work was one of the earlier town histories of Massachusetts. He said in its preface, "The gathering of these annals has been too long delayed," and prophesied "discovery of facts" beyond his reach. With no *local* records of the first forty-four years, it is no wonder that he fell into some errors. He was an excellent annalist and wrote interestingly. In his day, and since, he had not the credit he deserved for his work for public education, he was even railed at in the public press. It is not the thought of our present writers to belittle his work, but rather to correct the manifest errors, and, so far as possible, to stop their perpetuation.

We earnestly hope that the work of the Medford teacher alluded to will be completed, and that our local history may be properly taught in our public schools. And now that over thirty years have elapsed since the Usher revision, which covered so little of the thirty previous years, should there not be interest awakened that will secure a new and up-to-date history of our ancient town and modern city in 1920?











Vol. XIX.]

[No. 3.]

# Historical Register



JULY, 1916

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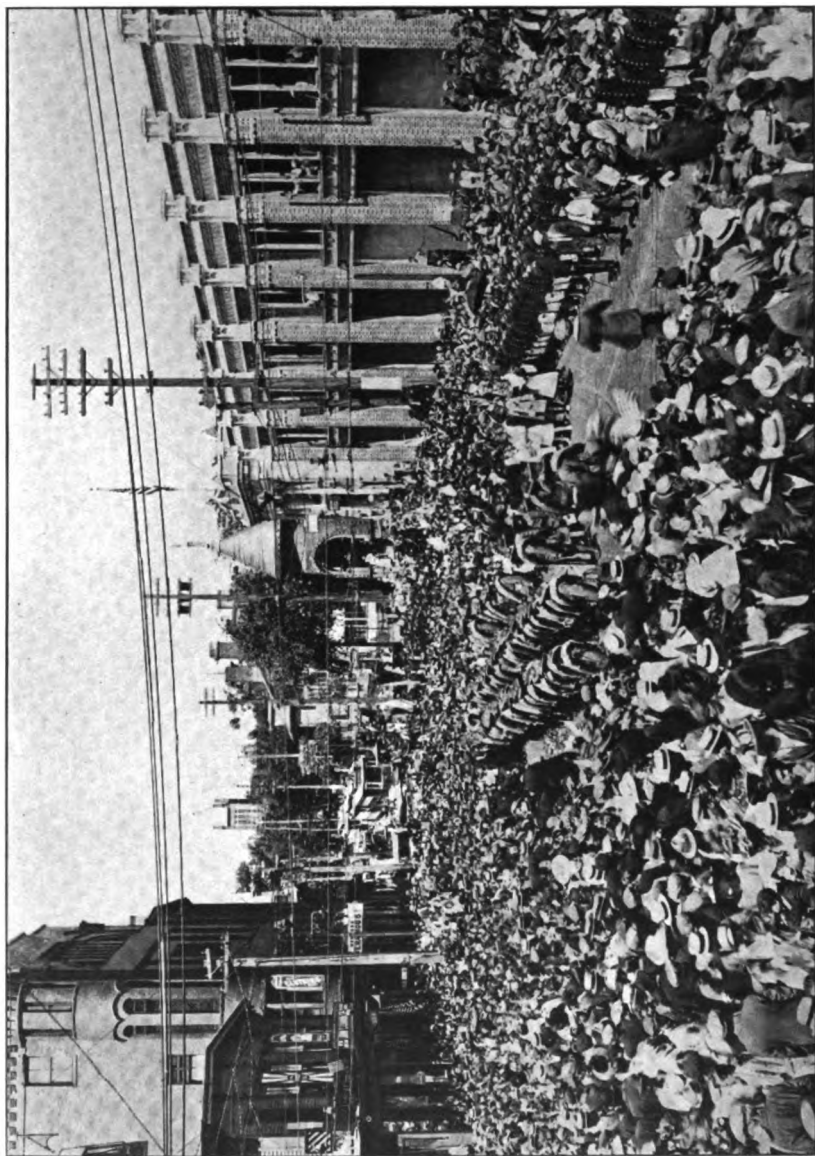
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I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_



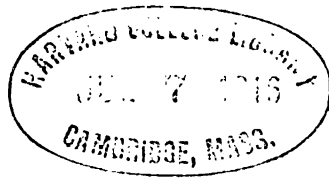




Photograph by C. H. Tinkham, from present headquarters of Medford Historical Society.

CO. E, FIFTH REGT., AGAIN CALLED TO THE COLORS.





# The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XIX.

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## TWO MEDFORD BUILDINGS OF THE FIFTIES.

UPON the wall of the principal's room in the Brooks schoolhouse hang four pictures of the successive structures that have housed that school. Each is in marked contrast to the other, as might well be expected. It is of the second that we wish especially to treat just now. It is not known that any photograph was ever taken of the building itself. The picture mentioned is a photographic enlargement of the engraving illustrating Brooks' "History of Medford," which was probably made from the architect's drawing, and was made by Erving Conant at the instance of some friend of the school.

Of the earliest West End schoolhouse an account may be found in Vol. VIII, page 75, of the REGISTER, and the accompanying half-tone is a reproduction of the pen-and-ink drawing which is one of the four above mentioned. The most casual glance at this will suffice to show a marked difference from its successor, while the appearance of the second will be striking as compared with the then prevailing style and appearance of schoolhouses.

There was a reason for this. Historian Brooks devoted nearly a page to this house and its public exercises, and records that on March 10, 1851, the town voted to build it and appropriated \$2,000 therefor, and says,

The inhabitants of West Medford, desirous of having a schoolhouse more ample in its dimensions and more classic in its appearance than the town's appropriation would procure, cheerfully united in adding to it, by subscription, the sum of nine hundred dollars.

For some years prior to the writer's advent in Medford he passed to and from Boston on the railway, and often noticed the striking architecture of this building (the more noticeable because of the few adjacent houses), and

very naturally thought it was the village church. Mr. Brooks gives the names of the building committee and adds, "they spared no pains in procuring a skillful draughtsman." We wish he had given his name, as careful search fails to reveal it. He mentioned the builder, George A. Caldwell, but in his history omits many interesting and noteworthy matters because "courtesy," "usage," or "custom forbids."

Not so the committee, however, for in the city clerk's office are its reports, both majority and minority. The former, dated March 1, 1852, shows the entire expense to have been \$3,370.82. Of this, \$417 was for land at three cents per foot, and \$187.52 for furniture and stove. The committee, pleading guilty to exceeding the appropriation, began by saying that one of its number had declined to serve, prior to the commencement of the building. It told of a plan, "presented by a liberal hand," and of \$939.55 subscribed toward the construction, "rather than to have a one-story" structure erected. It reported \$893.55 of this collected, and that there was still due the contractor \$477.27, all other bills being paid. This sum the town later appropriated and paid. This report was signed by John B. Hatch and James M. Usher.

The minority report covers about four times the space of that of the majority, and is signed by Charles Caldwell, who says he "was met at the very outset by one Gentleman of the committee with a cool indifference that both surprised and astonished" him, and intimating that this was because the said "Gentleman" was not placed as chairman by the town. Evidently the committee were not harmonious, as they could not agree on a location, and three lots were named. Mr. Caldwell describes one as being "out of the way of nine-tenths of the children that attend or will attend in future, beside the Continual passing on the Lowell Rail Road trains of Carrs that can be seen and heard for miles, which Certainly would not greatly aid a Close application to study." Thereupon several meetings of the district were held and another lot

chosen, the price of which was *four* cents per foot. At that stage of the matter Mr. Usher was in the minority, but by "his powerful eloquence" in the district meeting this conclusion was arrived at. Then, "that there be no want of excitement the school committee stepped aside from their proper Calling in order to give their advice in the matter." Then, after more turmoil, when "one would have supposed there was a foreign invasion by the noise," and "Mr. Smith said he would follow the Committee from the foundation to the pinnacle," the schoolhouse was at last located on land of Samuel Teele at the corner of Brooks and Irving streets. Mr. Caldwell says dimensions were agreed upon and he was asked to, and did, draw plans (a front and side elevation) with which no fault was found, the committee meeting soon after to stake out foundation, and fronting it southwest. Mr. Usher was to proceed with the foundation, as he said he had raised money by subscription for that expense.

It appears from Mr. Caldwell's writing that Hon. Edward Brooks had become interested in the proposed building, and had suggested or offered to furnish plans for the same. These plans, he writes, were "drawn in the old English style," and were adopted, not without his criticism. Then the question of frontage came up again. "Mr. Usher wanted it northwest," and "here was open war again." "Mr. Usher controlled the subscription," saying, "Unless the house fronts to suit me you can have none of this money." At last Mr. Hatch is quoted as saying that he wanted that style of house, and rather than not have it, would vote to front it northwest, though against his wish. Mr. Caldwell closed the minority report with, "I was now fully satisfied that the present majority of the Committee were proceeding without regard to expense or the interest of the town. . . . I refused taking any further responsibility . . . for I was convinced that the whole thing from the beginning was a selfish speculation, Conceived in iniquity and brought forth in sin."

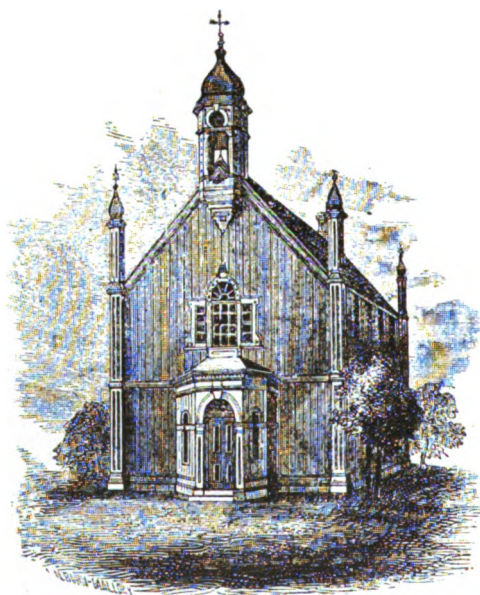
And so at last the house was begun. Historian Brooks tells of the corner-stone laying on the sixth of August. Let us trust that the prayer of the good Baptist clergyman helped still the warring factions. Fortunately the swath the tornado cut two weeks later was a little southward, and the new schoolhouse escaped the fate of the old. On Forefathers' Day, very cold, and a heavy snow-storm under way at its close, the dedication exercises were held. This time the senior clergyman of the town, Dr. Ballou, made the prayer. Mr. Brooks mentions on each occasion original poems recited by pupils. Probably modesty forbade naming their author.

The effort to locate on land of higher price may have savored of "selfish speculation," but at this date we fail to find warrant for the *iniquity and sin* referred to. Possibly the plans finally adopted contributed to the dissatisfaction of the minority, and the final location broke the strained relation. The "old English" architecture of the edifice could not fail of attracting attention, and the more because of its elevated position.

After eighteen years of use, the town decided on a larger structure and secured the present admirable location on High street. In 1869 this second house and land was sold for \$1,200 to Edward Kakas, who had it converted into a dwelling-house. The cupola and the four corner turrets were removed and the exterior re-finished. The entrance porch forms a bay-window, and the roof is slightly elevated at the eaves. The vertical siding was covered with clapboards, the projecting corners below the turrets removed, and the basal finish still shows the corners filled in. This building is now the residence of George H. Remele.

For some years its arched cupola found a resting-place on the ledge next Hastings lane. Till very recently one (or two) of the tall turrets have stood on the hill slope in the rear of Mrs. Kakas' residence, and within a few months the writer has seen and examined the remains of one. They were octagonal, two feet in diameter, were





Brocks Schoolhouse, 1851.

of open construction, and each corner was of pine timber four by six inches in size. Their pagoda roofs were of heavy sheet iron, terminating in iron finials, in which were the letters E. B. in monogram. It would have been well if Principal Hobbs' idea of placing it in the corridor of the new Brooks school could have materialized.

Historian Brooks said the locality was "where pure air comes from the heavens, and pure water from the earth" — and hereby hangs a tale, told the writer in 1866 by an elderly Medford man. He dug a well in the dry summer time into a hillside's underlying ledge; a slow, laborious process, and all the broken rock had to be hoisted out in buckets by a windlass. He had excavated below all other wells, and no water was reached. Resuming his work one day he noticed a moist and seamy place in the rock, and struck it with the sharp point of his crowbar. A chip of stone fell off, and a stream of water flowed in. His helper shouted, "*The tub! the tub!*" and before they were hoisted out by the men on the surface the water was up to their necks. The writer had not heard of the Brooks schoolhouse then, but very likely this is the place.

Reference has been made to the excess of expense above the town's appropriation. In the immediately preceding years several new houses had been erected in the "West End," notably those of Revs. John Pierpont and David Greene Haskins, the two Hastings, and two by D. N. Skillings. Beside these were the Wood, Breed and Spaulding residences beyond the railway. These were all large, well-built houses, which shame some of more modern construction. Too large for present-day use by one family, they do not lend themselves well to the recent craze for "two-flat houses." These and the less pretentious ones of that period can readily be identified by careful observers. With these came the call for increased school accommodation and for a meeting-place or social center. So for this latter was the subscription list and funds the historian and committee mention, and

we are told the new school building was for a little time thus used. In 1852 the West Medford Lyceum and Library Association was incorporated, and continued operative until 1871, and may have had its earlier meetings in the school hall, or until the building known as Mystic hall was erected in 1852.

This was done by Mr. T. P. Smith, who was alluded to by Mr. Caldwell in his minority report. Mr. Smith had purchased the almshouse just vacated by the town, thus adding the old town farm to his extensive domain, which stretched away to the river and on which was the large house in which he lived. (See REGISTER, Vol. XI, No. 3, frontispiece, for this and Mystic hall.)

Upon the completion of this structure it became the social center for such public gatherings as the West End had, with those of the Lyceum Association, and there was the latter's library, until placed in the care of the Village Improvement Society in about 1880. Later this building was the home of the famous Mystic Hall Seminary, which was opened subsequent to the death of Mr. Smith by his widow, and which took its name from that of the hall.

During the sixty-three years that have elapsed it has been more or less a social center of West Medford,—seminary, lyceum, Sunday school, union religious services, churches, fraternal organizations, clubs and polling place. It still houses, as it has in all the forty-six years the writer has known it, a village grocery, with the exception of a few months, conducted by the present proprietor. This is not an advertisement, but history, and "custom" need not forbid mention of the name, Joseph E. Ober.

Possibly its owner (its builder's name has escaped us) may have been dissatisfied with the schoolhouse wrangle and erected Mystic hall as a rival; if so he builded better than he knew for a social center, but certainly both these buildings were and are a credit to their designers and constructors, and the latter bids fair to so remain.

MOSES WHITCHER MANN.



## STORY OF SONGS FROM THE MEDFORD WOODS.

BY MARIA W. WAIT.

AS many of Medford's old-time landmarks and people have interested its citizens of today, it seems as though another memory may well hold our attention, and we may be glad to listen to this lay of Medford woodlands, "JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT."

These enchanting verses of nature's beauty were written by one of our own townspeople, Caroline Smith, a daughter of Horatio Austin and Elizabeth (Learoyd) Smith, who was born November 12, 1840, at Symmes' Corner, Winchester, said corner at that time being a part of Medford. Always a quiet and thoughtful girl, it was not surprising that some of her thoughts should seek expression even at sixteen years, at which age this poem was written.

The verses were read one day by a friend, Mrs. E. P. Marvin, the wife of the Orthodox minister in Medford, who asked the privilege of showing them to her husband. He also admired them, and after some persuasion Miss Smith allowed him to publish the poem anonymously in the *Boston Recorder*. This was in 1856. Later they were printed in *Gleason's Monthly Companion*, a magazine published during the years between 1850 and the '60s. As Carrie Smith was very retiring in nature, the poem appeared always without her signature.

Other papers copied the verses, and the poem became almost a household friend.

Some years after, the poem, greatly changed, appeared in the little volume named "Child Life," edited by the poet, John G. Whittier. Friends immediately recognized it, however, as the thoughts of "Carrie" Smith, as she was familiarly known, and wrote Whittier concerning it. Some correspondence followed, and the poet wrote Miss Smith, saying the poem had been sent in manuscript form to him by a friend, and at the end of the letter presented this respects and assurances of regret in not having

been able to consult with her at the time of the first publication.

Relative to the explanation the following is quoted from a correspondent:—

“The idea was fine and some of the verses remarkably excellent, but it seemed not complete and some of the lines defective, and supposing it to be his friend’s, he (Whittier) re-wrote and amplified it and signed it as anonymous. Only after printing it had he learned it was not his friend’s.”

“He was very glad to hear of the true author and as he was to issue a new edition of ‘Child Life’ he would give the credit of the poem to Miss Smith if she would accept the additions and alterations.”

The second edition was printed, but by some typographical error the author’s name was given as “Clara” instead of Carrie Smith. Here is her poem, and beside it is the poem as accredited to Whittier, appearing in 1871.

#### JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT.

Jack, in his pulpit,  
Preaches today,  
Under the green trees,  
Just over the way,  
Close by the mossy  
Stone wall ; on the air  
Ringeth the Lily-bells  
Calling us there.  
Come — hear what his reverence  
Will have to say  
To his audience, this sweet,  
Calm, Sabbath-day.  
Out in the free, pure air,  
As, we’ve been told,  
The Puritans preached —  
Our fathers of old —  
Thus Jack discourses  
’Neath the blue skies ;  
As theirs — perhaps *his* words  
May prove as wise.  
Lovely the canopy  
O’er his head seen,  
Penciled by Nature’s hand  
Black, brown and green ;

Jack in the pulpit  
Preaches today,  
Under the green trees  
Just over the way.  
Squirrel and song-sparrow  
High on their perch,  
Hear the sweet lily-bells  
Ringing to church.  
Come, hear what his reverence  
Rises to say  
In his low painted pulpit  
This calm Sabbath-day.

Fair is the canopy  
Over him seen,  
Penciled by Nature’s hand,  
Black, brown and green.

With the same, sombre hue  
 Painted, I see  
 The little pulpit  
 In which standeth he.  
 The surplice he wears  
 Is all palely green ;  
 Priest was never before  
 In such a dress seen.

In court-robcs of velvet  
 Black and gold, see,  
 Cometh with deep, bass voice,  
 Lord Bumble-bee ;  
 And unseen spirits that  
 Play the wind-lyres,  
 Bird voices, soft and sweet —  
 These form his choirs ;

And the brave Columbines  
 As sentinels stand  
 On the lookout, with their  
 Red trumpets in hand.

Meek, frail Anemones,  
 Drooping and sad,  
 In robes all fragile  
 And delicate — clad ;  
 Buttercups — their faces  
 Beaming with sunlight ;  
 Clovers, with bonnets,  
 Some red and some white ;  
 Daisies, — their white fingers  
 Half clasped, as in prayer ;  
 Dandelions — with their  
 Bright, golden hair ;  
 Innocents — like children  
 Guileless and frail,  
 Their little faces  
 Upturned and pale ;  
 Wild-wood Geraniums,  
 All in their best  
 Robes of soft, lovely,  
 Purple gauze, dressed ;

Green is his surplice,  
 Green are his bands ;  
 In his queer little pulpit  
 The little priest stands.

In black and gold velvet,  
 So gorgeous to see,  
 Comes with his bass voice  
 The chorister bee.  
 Green fingers playing  
 Unseen on wind-lyres, —  
 Low singing bird voices —  
 These are his choirs.  
 The violets are deacons  
 I know by the sign  
 That the cups which they carry  
 Are purple with wine.  
 And the columbines bravely  
 As sentinels stand  
 On the look-out with all their  
 Red trumpets in hand.

Meek-faced anemones  
 Drooping and sad ;  
 Great yellow violets,  
 Smiling out glad ;  
 Buttercups' faces  
 Beaming and bright ;  
 Clovers, with bonnets —  
 Some red and some white ;  
 Daisies, their white fingers  
 Half-clasped in prayer ;

Innocents, children  
 Guileless and frail,  
 Meek little faces  
 Upturned and pale ;  
 Wild-wood geraniums,  
 All in their best,  
 Languidly leaning  
 In purple gauze dressed : —

These, all, are assembled  
 This sweet Sabbath-day  
 To hear what Jack  
 In his pulpit will say.

See those Indian pipes,  
 That mossy bank near ;  
 I wonder what rude sprites  
 Have been smoking here !  
 Jack saw the intruders'  
 Ill manners, I guess,  
 And gave a rebuke  
 For their bold rudeness,  
 So stern, that, affrighted,  
 No longer they stopped,  
 But fled — and in their haste  
 Their tiny pipes dropped.

Now what of the sermon  
 That Jack hath preached ?  
 Our wandering thoughts have  
 Not that subject yet reached.  
 Ah me ! like too many  
 That go forth to pray  
 In temples and churches,  
 This calm, holy day —  
 Just as many of those  
 Worshippers, I ween,  
 We've spent *our* time watching  
 The audience here seen ;  
 We can tell just what  
 Their dresses have been,  
 Criticized their bonnets,  
 Their looks and their mien,  
 Have gazed at the preacher,  
 The choir have heard,  
 But of the sermon  
 We know not one word.

All are assembled  
 This sweet Sabbath-day  
 To hear what the priest  
 In his pulpit will say.

Look ! white Indian pipes  
 On the green mosses lie !  
 Who has been smoking  
 Profanely so nigh ?  
 Rebuked by the preacher  
 The mischief is stopped,

But the sinners, in haste,  
 Have their little pipes dropped.  
 Let the wind with the fragrance  
 Of fern and black birch  
 Blow the smell of the smoking  
 Clean out of our church !

So much for the preacher :  
 The sermon comes next, —  
 Shall we tell how he preached it,  
 And where was his text ?  
 Alas ! like too many  
 Grown-up folks who play  
 At worship in churches  
 Man-builted today, —  
 We heard not the preacher  
 Expound or discuss ;  
 But we looked at the people,  
 And they looked at us.  
 We saw all their dresses,  
 Their colors and shapes ;  
 The trim of their bonnets,  
 The cut of their capes.  
 We heard the wind-organ,  
 The bee and the bird,  
 But of Jack in the Pulpit  
 We heard not a word !

In 1884 the poem was put into booklet form beautifully illustrated in color, and attached was a copy of a letter

giving credit to Carrie Smith, as Whittier did not wish to claim the originality of the idea.

A book of the poem, with the flowers printed in outline, was published for the use of classes in painting. It was one of a series compiled by Marion Kemble, and printed by S. W. Tilton & Co. of Boston, making a very artistic and attractive volume.

Miss Smith's poems also appeared in the *Portland Transcript*, *Somerville Citizen*, and other papers of note. These attracted much attention and gained her many friends and admirers, and many felt a great loss when Carrie Smith died in 1889. Nevertheless she is not forgotten, especially when each spring "Jack" preaches again in our midst.

Among the poems written, one is quite appropriate here, as it seems a fitting requiem to "Jack" as he steps out of "his pulpit."

#### AUTUMN'S CHILDREN.

The little gypsy wild-flowers, that so fearlessly were seen  
Uplifting brilliant banners from their grassy tents and green,  
Have perished in their loveliness, 'neath the destroying blast,  
As the first born of Egypt when Death's chilling angel passed.  
Autumn is mourning — mourning for her beauteous children dead;  
With wailing, sobbing voice of grief laments her darlings fled.  
Stained crimson by the tears of blood her smitten heart hath shed,  
All slowly fell the maple-leaves upon their humble bed;  
And where, in constellations bright, star-flowers upraised their eyes  
Unto their sister-stars that smiled upon them from the skies,  
Autumn hath wreathed a blue mist-veil above her joys that died,  
To sadly hide their sepulchre — the barren, bleak hillside.

Twining white, waxen bells around their hair — a numerous band,  
No longer in the meadow-grass the lady's tresses stand;  
And at her mirror-brook no more, like a bright, brilliant queen,  
Gazing at her rich, crimson robe, the cardinal flower is seen.  
The golden-rod no longer flings its yellow plumes on high;  
From the clover's nodding globe no more is fragrance wafted by;  
No more the lady's-slippers call unto their neighbor-flowers;  
"Come, buy these shoes the fairies made — these golden shoes of ours!"

No longer, armed with sharpest thorns, the royal thistle stands,  
As if to say: "Who dares touch me with rude and careless hands?"

No more in vibrant, fragile grace, in beauty frail and fair,  
 The pendant harebell rings its note of music on the air ;  
 The gentian doth its blue-fringed lids o'er its deep casket close  
 No longer, as it were to hide some treasure from its foes ;  
 No more do constancy's bright flowers, in some secluded spot,  
 Lift up their eyes of Heaven's own blue, and breathe " Forget me not."

The crickets, in their dusky robes, around their humble bed  
 Are piping melancholy dirge for Autumn's children dead.  
 How lonely and how desolate appears sad Nature's face !  
 Where — as gray age is often seen in rosy youth's embrace —  
 The ivy 'round the hoar old trees their blushing beauty flung,  
 And round their rough and knotted arms their scarlet festoons hung ;  
 Where the barberry's coral clusters gleamed, and where the sumac showed  
 Its gorgeous velvet cones, that 'mid its leaves, wild fires glowed ;

Where the vine its purple treasures hung ; where lithe birch tree was seen  
 In its silver coat, and the elm tree in its leafy dress of green ;  
 Now all is sadly desolate ; and where was softly shed  
 O'er hill and dale a rose-hued haze, a tear-like mist is spread.  
 The sorrowing skies weep o'er the earth, as o'er a blighted child,  
 And Autumn like a Niobe, with wailing voice, and wild,  
 With voice of grief and fitful tears, laments her darlings fled, —  
 Her bright and beauteous children, faded, numbered with the dead.

But faith a glorious promise weaves that from this rustling dust,  
 His hand who crushed the Autumn leaves has drawn a sacred trust ;  
 A trust that lives forever — aye, a trust of life divine  
 That yet shall bid the springtide bowers with vernal radiance shine !  
 So, when in Time's drear autumn we bend in sad'ning prayer  
 And all the cherished hopes of years strew Grief's bleak hillside bare,  
 Our Father's hand hath only ta'en the key of joy's attune  
 Which he shall give us back again in Heaven's eternal June !

### SOMETHING ABOUT CAPT. ISAAC HALL.

Eleven years ago a tablet to the memory of Medford's captain of Minute Men was erected at the historic spot where Revere aroused him on the original Patriots' Day. In a later issue of the REGISTER (Vol. VIII, page 100) appeared the address of Mr. Hall Gleason before the Historical Society prior to the erection of this memorial by the Sons of the Revolution, and also a copy of the inscription thereon. In that address, 1789 is named as the year in which Captain Hall died, once directly and

twice indirectly. The accuracy of this remained unquestioned for several years, till early in 1911 a communication from Kansas, addressed to the Historical Society, came into our hands, which we now present:—

On page 100, Vol VIII, of the *HISTORICAL REGISTER*, appears an article by Mr. Hall Gleason on

### CAPT. ISAAC HALL

He is described as a son of Andrew and Abigail [Walker] Hall, born in Medford, January 24, 1739.

Now Capt. Isaac Hall married on October 8, 1761, Abigail *Cutter*, and had a number of children.

The second was Eleanor, born July 23, 1764, and the fourth was James, born December 25, 1768.

Eleanor was married by Peter Thacher on April 24, 1791, to Charles Stimpson the son of Recompense Wadsworth Stimpson, a merchant of Boston, Mass., and the writer of this communication is a grandson of this couple.

The article above cited gives Capt. Isaac's death, (p. 102) (November 24, 1789). This I believe to be a mistake, and that it should be *November 13, 1805*.

The Boston Directory for 1796 and '98 gives the name of Isaac Hall and locates him as a distiller, Distill House square, House No. 12, Franklin Place.

The same name appears in the directories which follow, with his residence on Franklin Place, till 1803, when its occupation is given a boarding house, 12 Franklin Square.\*

In 1806 the name changes to *Abigail* Hall, boarding house, 12 Franklin Square,\* and so continues for several years.

The Suffolk Co. Deed Records show that one Abigail Howard sold a house at No. 12 Franklin Place to Isaac Hall, distiller, on June 21, 1796. At the time Charles Stimpson (his son-in-law) was twenty-one he began to keep a diary of some of the important events of his life. He was a trader, and from 1789 to 1801 did business at Petersburg, Virginia, making frequent trips to and from Boston. Among the events so recorded is that of his wedding to Eleanor Hall, on April 24, 1791, and of a visit Isaac Hall made him in Portland from August 1, to September 1, 1801. On November 24, 1805, the record is "Mr. Isaac Hall died at Boston Aged 66"

One other event he records: October 14, 1814, Abigail Hall broke up her housekeeping at Franklin place.

By reference to a Bible Record kept by my Uncle William *Cutter*

\* I think this Square should be Place but am too far from the B. Pub. Library and the directory to verify it.

Stimpson.\* I find "Died at Our House Sept 28, 1825 Mrs Abigail Hall, Grandmother (maternal) of W. C. S. (a- yrs mo) She was on a visit to us, a stroke of Paralysis deprived her of speech and the use of her limbs, in which condition she lay nine days, and then took flight to that world of Spirits whither she had there long since directed her eyes and thoughts, — and in which, to all human appearances, she was, by God's grace prepared to enjoy the company of those who have been redeemed of the Lord Her mortal remains were disposed of by the filial attention of her son James Hall Esq."

FRED. E. STIMPSON.

By some inexplicable means this communication was mislaid and forgotten and has but recently come to light. It conflicts with Mr. Gleason's statement in but one particular, that of the date of Captain Hall's death, but adds interesting facts of the later days of both Captain and Mrs. Hall. We find in "Halls of New England," by "Rev. David B. Hall, A.M., Duanesburg, N. Y., 1883," the date of death November 24, 1789.

The above work was shown us by Mrs. Annie (Hall) Gleason and is doubtless the basis of Mr. Hall Gleason's statement. By the courtesy, also, of Mrs. Gleason, we have examined the old family Bible in which are recorded the marriage of Andrew Hall and Abigail Walker, and the births and deaths of their large family. This Bible record is, "Isaac Hall born January 24, 1739 died November 24, 1805." Just what reason Mr. Stimpson may have had for assigning the 13th as the day of death, when that diary record he quotes from is 24th, we fail to know. Perhaps he made an error in copying, as it is evident that Rev. Mr. Hall did. As both diary and Bible records agree it would appear that the correct date is November 24, 1805. We have written to our correspondent a note of apology, and insert this as tardy justice to him, and of interest to the REGISTER's clientage. In the thirty years that Captain Hall lived after his march to Lexington he saw the beginnings of national life, but the one hundred and eleven since his passing we will not try to compare.

\* William was the son of Charles and Eleanor S. and his middle name was the maiden name of his Grandmother Abigail Hall.



#### A MEDFORD CITIZEN FROM OVER SEA.

**E**DWARD KAKAS, for many years a resident of West Medford, was born in Budapest, Hungary, August 12, 1828, the eldest son of Kokesch Josef and Szarka Teriz. Educated in his native city, he there learned the furrier's trade from his father, who later established him in business. On the outbreak of the Hungarian revolution in 1848 he, with hosts of other young men, left everything to join the army under Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian national hero.

Kossuth was born in 1802, and when he grew to manhood entered upon a political career. In his teachings, which were considered very radical by the ruling powers, but were eagerly accepted by the young men of the nation, he advocated the emancipation of the peasants, the freedom of the press, and an independent government for Hungary.

In 1848, which has been called "the year of revolution," Europe was honeycombed with revolutionary ideas. The despotism of the government, which ground down the laboring class, gave rise to increasing discontent and led to a widespread movement to bring the conditions of society up to a higher standard of justice and truth. The first outbreak was in France, but its fires had long been smouldering throughout the land. Hungary was the first to proclaim her independence of Austria, and Kossuth was, by unanimous consent, made the leader. Although he had not been trained as a soldier, he put himself at the head of the troops and shared all their vicissitudes and desperate campaigns. Young Kakas fought all through the war and gained the rank of lieutenant. The struggle was carried on for two years and success was almost attained, but the intervention of Russia snatched the victory from the army, and Kossuth, betrayed by some of those whom he had trusted, was exiled to Turkey. Many of his followers were executed or imprisoned and others escaped to England and the United States. Mr. Kakas was one of those who escaped, first to England

and then to this country. It has been a family tradition that he came over here with Kossuth.

In 1851 Kossuth came to this country as the guest of the nation and was received with every honor. He made a tour of the country, going as far west as Cincinnati and south to New Orleans, arousing great enthusiasm everywhere by his bearing and addresses.

Mr. Kakas came over in 1851, and in 1853 established himself in the fur business in Portland, Me., where he was known as an expert in his line of work. That same year he married Josephine P. Kegler, a native of Weinheim, Germany. In 1855 he came to Boston and started in business on Washington street, opposite the old Herald building, being the first manufacturing furrier in the city. He was burned out in the great fire of 1872, but opened a new store on Summer street, which later, when his sons joined him in business, was moved to Washington street and then to Tremont street, where it was known as Edward Kakas & Sons.

Before coming to Medford to live, in 1858, Mr. Kakas lived in Brookline. His first home here was on Prescott street; from there he moved to Allston street, and in 1862 or 1863 he bought the property on Irving street, which was his home until his death. Here he indulged his love for gardening and cultivated rare flowers.

Mr. Kakas became a naturalized citizen in 1886, when, wishing to visit his native land, he found that, having left it as a political refugee, he could not safely return except as a citizen of his adopted country.

Mr. Kakas died September 18, 1904. His wife, three sons and two daughters survive him. He was a life member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and a member of Mt. Hermon Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and Boston Commandery.

NOTE.—The Hungarian form of the name was Kokesch Edouard, the surname being placed first. After coming to this country Mr. Kakas changed the order and spelling of his name to correspond to the English form and pronunciation.

KATHARINE H. STONE.

### MEDFORD MINING MATTERS.

WE asked, in a recent issue of the REGISTER, for information relative to a Medford silver mine. We are now answering our own query, though not as fully as we might wish. We have no scheme to promote, or mining stock for sale. The subject is simply one of historic interest, and worthy of record.

We naturally turn to the files of the press for information of this mining operation of 1881. The Medford *Mercury*, then in its first year of publication, under date of September 17, tells of a visit made by reporters of four Boston dailies. The occasion was enlivened by the presence of ladies, and somebody's "Old Bill" furnished the motive power up Forest street to the Spot Pond house. From thence the party walked through the woods to the scene of operations. There the writer, who signs himself S. W. G., had "a half-hour interview with Mr. Harrigan," from which he deduced the following:—

This mine was discovered by F. W. Morandi of Malden, who was wandering through the Fells for pleasure. He immediately purchased a large tract of land, and contracted for the sinking of a shaft 25 feet deep with a Mr. Halliday. The shaft is now 12 feet deep, the workmen having been about two weeks at work, putting in from 3 to 5 blasts per day, each bringing forth encouraging results. Mr. Harrigan told us, that if in going down the next ten feet the richness increased as it had thus far, the mine would be a paying investment, and in all probability the shaft would be sunk 100 feet.

The first assay yielded \$18 in silver, \$4 in gold, and the estimate is at present \$50 per ton, with copper in large proportions both in sulphide and oxide. The ore is taken to the smelting works in East Boston. About a mile northeast, Matthew Robertson has discovered silver, which is supposed to be an outcropping from the same vein.

On October 15 appears—

That silver mine at Spot Pond is progressing favorably. The shaft has been sunk to a depth of 30 feet, and Mr. Harrigan has contracted to carry it 25 feet farther down. It is understood that the yield is satisfactory thus far, and that more land will be bought for mining purposes.

The above is all that our local paper tells of the mining operations in a technical way. Thirty-three years

had elapsed when we made our query. It was prompted by a telephone inquiry made by some one unknown to us — yes, we have a lot of such, as some take us for an information pagoda. We replied, “There *was* something of the kind, but we have no definite knowledge of it — no — no — we can’t tell any lies about it. Good-bye.” Some weeks later a very readable and interesting story appeared in the Sunday issue of a Boston paper, with a view of the locality. It located the mine on land of Mr. Willis, and says, “the shaft was sunk to a depth of eighty-five feet, encountering a spring that caused much trouble and that a lateral tunnel was excavated for seventy-five feet and that there all trace of silver was lost.” Also that “the work was prosecuted for two years and after \$10,000 was expended, ceased for lack of capital.”

How true these details may be we know not, save the fact that work ceased, which is self-evident. We have made some inquiry. One man, an assessor of those days, says, “We went up there to see if there was anything taxable . . . found only a hole in the ground . . . no buildings or machinery . . . nothing doing.” Others were at the time in question incredulous, saying it was a scheme to sell land. This was before the territory became a public reservation, also before the construction of the Winchester reservoir, which now stretches away from the near-by “Old Tony’s ledge,” toward the Lawrence observatory on Ram’s Head. The spot is shown on the map of the Fells and marked “old silver mine,” and the elevation of “Silver Mine hill” given as two hundred and fifty-five feet. At this remote day it is difficult to get at satisfactory conclusions. One says to us, “Fiction is always readable, but don’t believe it.” The story of night and day gangs of miners, heavy blasting, and richness of ore in recent accounts do not accord with the testimony of old residents. The *Mercury*, in its *resume* of ’81, said: —

Who in Medford would have risked a pair of old shoes on the prophecy, that in the course of the year, silver mines would come

to light within the bounds of the town? And yet an enterprising genius has brought to light in the vicinity of Spot Pond veritable silver mines, in which there is a stratum of bright possibilities, if nothing more. The resolute miner has faith in his mines and holds out the brightest kind of promise. We hope he will not be disappointed.

The recent writer, to whom we have alluded, tells that boys overturned the engine into the shaft, and the debris of crushed rock had filled it somewhat. To satisfy our curiosity, and equipped with the park commissioners' map, we recently repaired to the "old silver mine." We found "a hole in the ground," or rather in the ledge, rectangular in shape, about eight by ten feet, and perhaps nine in depth. We noted the mound of debris piled beside it, now overgrown, as nature has been kindly at work. We wondered if the *Mercury* man's "bright stratum of possibilities" still remains in the lateral seventy-five foot tunnel the other mentioned, or whether, indeed, that tunnel was purely mythical.

Remembering the "Folly's flower" of our school book, we picked a bunch of columbine for a *boutonniere* as a memory of this old Medford enterprise, wise or otherwise. All the silver we saw was the dime we exchanged for nickels to pay our carfares.

#### LEAD MINING AT WELLINGTON.

The latest Medford mining operation seems to be of the placer-hydraulic variety, for lead instead of silver. The product secured by the use of simple apparatus requires no smelting, and is readily marketable at war prices. On the Wellington marshes amateur sportsmen have for years practiced marksmanship with clay pigeons, and have thus "salted" this latest Medford mine with the baser metal of bird shot.

Recently, according to accounts given, numerous children, and some women, have been engaged (when the tide allowed) in digging over the marsh mud and washing out the metal. Fabulous reports are given of the

yield reduced to cash, one sum named would mean a weight of ten tons, which in bird shot isn't a homœopathic dose, though the size is such. Still, the essential fact remains, that Medford mining for lead is a *success*.

Some years since, it was said, a "Marine Salts Co." extracted gold from sea water down on the coast of Maine, for "*divers*" reasons, as its stockholders had cause to remember.

We congratulate the Medford Salt-marsh Mining Associates (*not* incorporated) on their legitimate success, and the originator of this latest mining scheme for his happy thought, doubtless more profitable than the silver mine in the Fells.

---

#### THE OLD FOUNTAIN TAVERN.

**I**N Vol. VIII of the REGISTER is an interesting account of the old Medford taverns. One of these long remained, used as a dwelling in its later years, and is remembered by many Medford people. The author, Mr. Hooper, has since discovered some additional matter relative to one of them and sends us the following item, quoted from Waters' *Newhall Family of Lynn*, which shows its antiquity, and also something of conditions when Medford was *wet*:—

Samuel Wade of Medford, married Lydia, daughter of Lieutenant Thomas Newhall of Malden. He was an innholder in whose tavern, at the sign of the Fountain in Mistick, on Monday the 27th December 1714, arose a brawl between Captain Edward Sprague and Thomas Newhall Jr. of Malden, resulting in the Captain being badly bruised about the head, thrown to the floor and barely escaped being thrown out of the window. As usual both parties seem to have been at fault.

Mr. Brooks, in his history, devotes some space to the Fountain tavern and its signs, saying it was built as early as 1725. He tells of platforms built in the spreading branches of the big trees, and their connecting bridges that reached also to the house, and that these were much used in summer as places of resort for drinking punch and cordials. "Tea-parties were sometimes gathered

there," as though *tea* was of secondary importance, as it probably was. It would appear that the modern roof-garden isn't anything new after all.

In his account, which may be somewhat mythical, he tells of an *earlier* sign that gave the house the name of *Palaver Tavern*, but no evidence of this has been elsewhere found. Now this appellation is quite interesting in its derivation from the Portuguese *palavra* = a word. It was used to designate the parleys or conferences held by Portuguese traders with the native chiefs on the African coast, and very likely introduced here by sea-faring men, a relic of the slave trade. It degenerated from its original significance to that of idle chatter, gabble, and wily flattery (*modern softsoap*), by which some advantage is likely to be taken by shrewd calculators. The alleged earlier sign is said to have had painted upon it figures of two men shaking hands and evidently engaged in conversation, and that they were styled *palaverers*.

On the great thoroughfare from Salem to Boston, this house had extensive patronage. It would be interesting to know why the sign was changed within one year. Probably the liquid cheer there dispensed had an exhilarating effect, and stimulated the *palaver* in its later meanings and caused the selection of "sign of the Fountain." Just how this fountain was depicted we do not know, other than "*pouring punch* into a huge bowl." It is very evident that the liquid was *not water*, or represented in *white* paint. As the Fountain "aimed to be superior to other houses," it had decoctions other than punch to pour from smaller mugs and glasses down the throats of its thirsty patrons.

Probably this was not the only "brawl" within its hospitable walls that proved true the proverb, ". . . strong drink is raging," and in which "both parties were at fault." The innholder was the sixth of the eight children of Major Nathaniel Wade, and the Wades were the solid men of Medford of that day, as witness the "town rate," or tax list, in the ancient record book. After sixteen years

in the business, Samuel Wade was the third in the highest tax payers. Captain Sprague's name does not appear among the sixty-seven "rated" that year, so we conclude he was a guest from elsewhere, and the other brawler was a brother-in-law of the innholder. We may wonder a little if the author of *Newhall Family* (while admitting the fault of Thomas, Jr.,) chronicled the rough handling of Captain Sprague as an example of the Newhall prowess, or creditable to the family. Such scenes were all too common in the old days, and Medford is better *dry*.

---

#### A FORWARD MOVEMENT.

At the latest meeting of the Directors it was decided to recommend to the Society the taking of *immediate* action to secure a *permanent home* by the purchase of land and the erection of a suitable building. Eligible sites are being considered and plans and estimates secured. Already a building fund has been commenced. The progress of this forward movement can be hastened by an early and generous response to the appeal of the Directors to our members, and through them to the public.

The design is to build, with masonry walls, a structure creditable to the Society, and adapted to its uses, both educative and social. It is eminently desirable that the same be at once begun, and the opening of the coming season mark its completion and the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Society.

Treasurer Fuller will immediately acknowledge the receipt of all contributions to the building fund.

---

#### 7-7-7 — MILITARY CALL.

As in 1775, '61 and '98, Medford men responded to the country's call on June 21, '16. As we go to press, we have only time to allude to our illustration of Medford square which shows Co. E, Fifth Regt. leaving for camp.



### MORE MEDFORD MILESTONE.

Since our issue of October last an observant citizen has called our attention to an error we wish to correct. We were told that the first mile-stone of the old Andover turnpike "was removed some years since." As we considered our information correct we did not verify it by a personal visit to the spot. We have recently done so, and find at about seventy paces below the entrance to the Metropolitan Police station the stone in question, which may or may not have been removed during the progress of the work of improvement along the line of Forest street. This stone is shaped much like the second, with a flat surface toward the pike (Forest street). The back and top are roughly curved, and the top has been fractured somewhat. The painted letters, <sup>1</sup><sub>I</sub> <sup>M</sup> still show near the top with a larger M beneath them, and lower down and barely legible are <sup>1</sup><sub>Mil</sub> rudely cut in the stone, much as might have been with "hammer and nail" (see page 10, Brooks' "History of Medford") in the hands of an amateur.

This stone is in the grassy slope between Forest street and the Fellsway, upon which last the electric cars and automobiles hurry along in marked contrast to the slow travel of the old turnpike days.

---

### A MEDFORD AUTHOR'S RESIDENCE.

Referring to Francis Green, a Medford author, we said (page 83, Vol. XVIII),

As yet we have not learned his dwelling place.

Had we consulted our former pages we should have found the following (page 97, Vol. XV),

Francis Green, . . . came to Medford about 1798, and two years later occupied the house later belonging to Samuel Swan (Watson house.)

We have received the following from the author of the above, which by *request* we insert,

If the editor will refer to the October issue of the REGISTER, page 97, he will find a statement which disproves [?] the one made on page 83 . . . 1915.

We have *now* learned where was the dwelling-place of Francis Green, and on the authority of Caleb Swan, as noted by our contributor, state it to have been in that house next north the old third meeting-house, which was more recently known as the Watson house, and a few years since demolished.

---

#### PERSONS SHOULD BE PARSONS.

Not all persons should be parsons, but on page 12, Vol. XIX, the name T. W. Persons should read Parsons. The surname, as printed, "got by" unnoticed. Mr. Parsons was a person, and though his occupation or profession is unknown to the editor, we feel sure that Mr. Parsons was not a parson, but an entertaining writer, translator of Dante, a poet, and one of the story-tellers of the Wayside Inn.

---

#### IN THE INTEREST OF ACCURACY.

The writer of the article in the July number of the REGISTER, 1915, on "Turell Tufts and His Family Connections," desires the following corrections to be made in the interests of accuracy, and begs her readers to recall that oft-quoted line,

"To err is human, to forgive divine,"

as an adjustment of the matter.

Page 54. High and Forest streets, instead of Main, etc.

Page 55. . . . the late Dudley C. Hall, whose father Dudley Hall named a child of his, who died young, for this distant relative.

Page 59. Willis Hall (1733-1812), had a daughter Mary (1772-1853) who married Dr. Luther Stearns, December 20, 1798, and a son George H. who married Sarah Chandler of Brattleboro, Vt. Elizabeth (1801-1862) daughter of George H. Hall and his wife Sarah, married George W. Porter, February 17, 1824. They were the parents, etc.



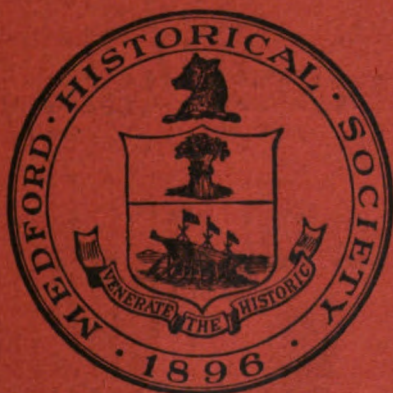




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Vol. XIX.]

[No. 4.]

# Historical Register



OCTOBER, 1916

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEDFORD, MASS.



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### FORM OF BEQUEST.

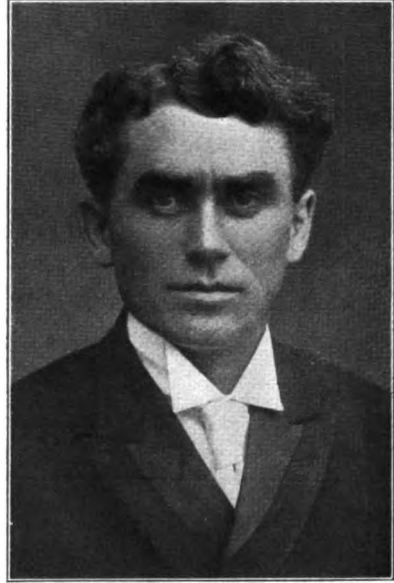
I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

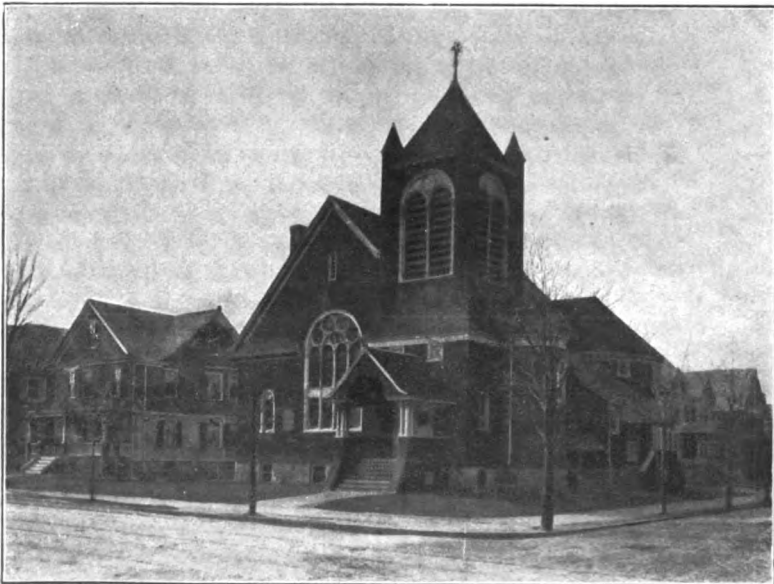




REV. NATHAN R. WOOD.



REV. EBEN F. FRANCIS.



WEST MEDFORD BAPTIST CHURCH.



# Medford Historical Register.

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NO. 1.

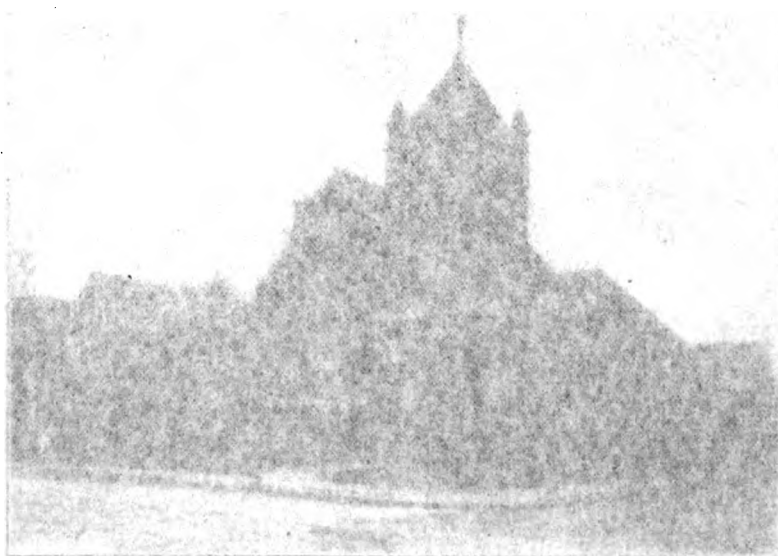
## THE STORY OF THE WEST MEDFORD BAPTIST CHURCH.

JOSEPH V. G. L. L. L. L. L.

Medford, Mass., 1880.

Life-story of the West Medford Baptist Church  
a few of the past twenty years. It was soon  
evident that the Rev. James P. Abbott,  
pastor of the First Baptist Church of Medford,  
one of his parishioners, residing in  
the city the formation of  
Mr. Abbott saw in the future the opportunity  
to begin the West Medford Baptist  
Church. We see the seed of our city grows, seems  
to have one eye, rather in opportunity than it  
in the future. It has not had a chance since 1865,  
to begin the development of the faith extend  
the church, the church encouraged a movement  
in the future. The first meeting  
of the church, the church. This occurred at the  
of the church, the church, on the church  
—a large, old, old, old residence, with sum-  
mer and winter, and for every side, that so  
of the church, the church, a house which  
as its owner, the church, the church.

Spaulding was strongly opposed to the project  
his opinion, the church was not to be. He  
it unwise to make any definite move until it  
seen where the money was coming from. The  
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# The Medford Historical Register.

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## THE STORY OF THE WEST MEDFORD BAPTIST CHURCH.

BY FRANK WOODS LOVERING.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, April 17, 1916.]

THE life-story of the West Medford Baptist Church spans a few months over twenty years. It was soon after the middle of 1895 that the Rev. James P. Abbott, at that time pastor of the First Baptist Church of Medford, urged upon those of his parishioners dwelling in the western section of the Mystic city the formation of another body. Mr. Abbott saw in the future the opportunity for an organization of West Medford Baptists which now, as we see this end of our city grow, seems a future still, but one even richer in opportunity than it has been in the two decades that have passed since 1895.

Eager to have the denomination of his faith extend its usefulness, Rev. Mr. Abbott encouraged a movement which, in the fall of 1895, took shape in the first meeting of those most vitally interested. This occurred at the home of the late George F. Spaulding, on Monument street—a large, square, old-fashioned residence, with summer house and garden, and fence on every side, that so many of the older ones so well remember; a house which passed as its owner passed. Only memory remains.

Mr. Spaulding was strongly opposed to the proposition. In his opinion the idea was too big to finance. He believed it unwise to make any definite move until it could be seen where the money was coming from. The leaders in the movement who were present refused to be discouraged, and the matter of a suitable building lot was agitated, although no definite action was then taken.

Other meetings were held later at various homes in

the community, notably with Mr. and Mrs. George E. Crosby, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. Stevens, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Lovering. A committee was selected to examine definitely into the matter of a church site, and among these was the Bishop estate on High street, across from the railroad station, and the large Boston avenue frontage of the Spaulding property.

In the meantime, under the guidance of Mr. Abbott, the movement for a church body of Baptists in West Medford took permanent form at an assemblage in Mystic hall on October 20, 1895.

This is the first actual date in the life history of the church. The meetings were held on Sabbath afternoons, with growing numbers, until January 1, 1896, when Rev. Mr. Abbott's duties with his home church increased to such an extent that he was compelled to relinquish his work in West Medford, and, following various supplies, Rev. Arthur A. Cambridge was called to the leadership of the new church body, not then incorporated.

The initial steps toward organization were taken on January 20, 1896. Rev. Mr. Cambridge was called March 5, and came in May from the Baptist Church in North Billerica. On the 9th of May a committee was selected to secure land, since the problem of financing the building proposition had been solved, and it was then that the Spaulding lot was settled upon.

Mr. Spaulding refused to sell the part of his estate directly upon the corner of Boston and Harvard avenues, requiring that the entire Boston avenue frontage be assumed. Out of this grew the parsonage, and oddly enough the parsonage was erected before the church. The committee bought the parcel of land which Mr. Spaulding agreed to sell, and Lewis H. Lovering purchased from the society the two lots adjoining the parsonage lot on the east. There now stand the residences of M. E. Bearse and E. W. Shedd.

On July 9th a finance committee was chosen to raise the funds, and a building committee to arrange for plans

and later make a contract. The drawings of architect G. Leslie Nichols were adopted, and Lewis H. Lovering was selected as builder. Work on the parsonage was begun immediately, and when completed it was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Cambridge. After his retirement it was rented, in order that it might carry itself in the Medford Co-operative Bank. In this connection it is of timely interest to note that on May 1, 1915, the church society became the owner, free and clear, of the pastor's home.

On July 16, 1896, a council of churches was assembled in Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (Mystic hall being engaged) for the purpose of formally recognizing the organization of the West Medford Baptist Church. Nineteen churches were reported through their delegates, and the young society was thus definitely placed upon the list of churches of the Baptist denomination in the district embracing Medford and adjacent communities.

Ground was broken without delay for the starting of the church building, and the corner-stone was laid November 24, 1896, at 2 P.M., by the late Rev. William Howe of Cambridge, and Dea. O. M. Wentworth of Tremont Temple made the leading address. The church cost, including land, organ, furnishings, etc., \$21,507.79, with subscriptions amounting to \$8,715.00. Individual contributions in the form of carpets, memorial windows, mantels, etc., added greatly to the original value of the structure.

Easter Sabbath, April 18, 1897, was the date of the first occupancy of the building. Rev. Mr. Cambridge preached an Easter sermon at the morning service and gave an address at night. Formal dedication took place on the following Wednesday afternoon. The Rev. George C. Lorimer, late pastor of Tremont Temple, Mayor Lovering the builder, and other men of prominence made addresses at a banquet later in the day. At this dinner were over one hundred invited guests, besides those who had come to see their dream and the dream of the Rev. Mr. Abbott realized.

Rev. Mr. Cambridge resigned March 5, 1899, and on November 24 of the same year Rev. Truman O. Harlow of Somerset, Mass., was called to the pastorate. He resigned January 6, 1901, to take effect on March 1, but twelve days later, on January 18th, the society chose a pulpit supply committee, which shortly reported in favor of hearing Mr. Nathan R. Wood of Newton as a candidate. He was chosen at a meeting on the 29th of March, and read his letter of acceptance the following Sabbath. Mr. Wood was not then an ordained minister, and this was to be his first charge after ordination.

Thursday, April 25, a council was assembled in the church to participate in the ceremony of the ordination of Mr. Wood, and to confirm the action of the society in calling him to be its pastor. The examination of the candidate proved wholly satisfactory. The council recommended acceptance, and in the evening of the same day Mr. Wood's father, the Rev. Nathan E. Wood, then president of Newton Baptist Theological Seminary, and now pastor of the First Baptist Church in Arlington, Mass., preached the ordination sermon. Other prominent Baptist clergymen had a part.

Rev. Mr. Wood continued as pastor of the growing church until 1911, when the repeated call for him to become dean of the Gordon Training School for Missionaries in Boston grew so urgent that he felt duty bound to heed it.

His going was with mutually deep regrets, but in his place came one who has grown into the hearts of his parish day by day, widening the sphere of the West Medford Baptist Church and its activities, helping with unflagging energy and zeal to build it up to greater good and greater strength and greater things for the people of the growing western section of the city—the Rev. Eben F. Francis, who at the time of his call to this charge was assistant pastor at the Clarendon Street Baptist Church in Boston.

. . . . .

I have dealt, up to now, wholly with the men, in this review of the West Medford Baptist Church and its development, but the women have always had a prominent part, particularly in assisting financially, when the church needed such assistance. From the beginning there was a strong organization of women who took active part in all the efforts to promote the welfare of the church, and the success of the society has been in no small measure due to their sacrificing efforts. There was at one time a Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, which was the nucleus of the Farther Lights Society. Out of the latter grew the present flourishing Philathea Class. The Ladies' Social Union was affiliated with the organization almost from the beginning, and the enthusiasm of this body of earnest women has done much at all times to help in the betterment of the church, corporate and spiritual.\*

West Medford is growing in a good direction. New fields of religious work are opening with the passing of each new year. Additional families are coming to dwell there; new faces are to be seen in both church service and Bible school, Sabbath in and Sabbath out. There lies the strength of this Baptist body, and there its paths of effort are defined. The church membership today numbers two hundred and forty-one; in the Bible school are registered two hundred and sixty-eight.

. . . . .

Thus rather briefly I have outlined the birth of West

\* In the new church manual, just issued, the constituent members of the West Medford Baptist Church are given as follows: Mrs. L. A. Ambler, Mrs. Mary A. Bass, Rev. Arthur A. Cambridge, Mrs. Belle S. Cambridge, George E. Crosby, Mrs. Augusta R. Crosby, Archer G. Crosby, Mrs. Mary S. Crosby, Miss Cora N. Crosby, Miss Amy L. Crosby, Frank S. Dows, Mrs. Olive M. Dows, Mrs. Mary T. Dows, Robert H. Grace, Mrs. Melvina E. Grace, Mrs. Emma F. Hixon, J. Gordon Kempton, Joseph N. Leach, Mrs. Carrie E. Leach, Mrs. Emma F. Lovering, Charles A. Mitchell, Mrs. Eunice Mitchell, Mrs. Minnie D. Marden, George E. Parker, Mrs. Frances Parker, George M. Ritchie, Mrs. Carrie S. Ritchie, Mrs. Nancy M. Stevens, Edwin E. Stevens, Mrs. Clara B. Stevens, Miss Estelle M. Stevens, Mrs. Mary Smart, Mrs. Lucy F. Swett. The first deacons were: George E. Crosby, J. Gordon Kempton, George M. Ritchie.

Medford's third permanent religious body, and its development to the present day through a period of two decades.

Prediction of its future is idle, except to make the safe prophecy that the society must grow as West Medford grows, or else go back. And that it is growing needs no better proof than the presentation of the definite fact that its Bible school quarters have been sadly cramped for a year, and that plans are under serious consideration now for their enlargement. The church itself will accommodate a growing congregation for some time to come, the problem of the Bible school is pressing. But this problem will be met and conquered before very long, for to conquer problems such as this one is the way in which those who formed the nucleus of the West Medford Baptist Church set forth upon their mission.

---

#### **A MEDFORD MEMORIAL—BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.**

We notice in the design of the new city hall of Medford a memorial of the soldiers and sailors who have served our country in its wars. Without venturing any criticism on the artistic merits of the same, we wish to say, "It is well, and such recognition should long ago have been made in our public square."

Medford was not, in one way, remiss in her duty in the matter, for within a year after the close of the civil war, the old town erected a sepulchral monument in the silent city of Oak Grove, bearing the names of forty-three "Medford Volunteers who sacrificed their lives in defence of the Union."

It was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on September 6, 1866. Medford had then no local paper to make note of the event, and to which we might now refer. A few programs of the exercises may have been preserved. The publisher of Medford's history of twenty years later inserted in his work a wood-cut of the monu-



ment, but made no reference to it in the text. But that a former editor of the REGISTER made note of it (Vol. IX, p. 33), reproducing the program, inscriptions and portions of the addresses then made, we should have remained in ignorance thereabout. On that occasion Medford's historian, Rev. Charles Brooks, made the address, in which he spoke of the lessons the monument would teach to posterity, when the storms of a century should have blackened its surface. He also said, "Fifty years hence let the hoary-headed soldier come and kneel in prayer as he calls to mind the young friend who fell at his side, and here let the aged mother come, to read the name of her patriot son." He spoke also of the lessons for the historian, the poet, and the statesman. But it is doubtful if many of these visit this memorial, save as the ever-decreasing ranks of veteran comrades do so on Memorial Day. The monument itself is beginning to feel the tooth of time, and its inscription, none too legible, is seen but by few.

Fifty years have passed, and we are writing on September 6, the anniversary day. It had been in our thought for the Historical Society to take some formal notice of this day, on the same spot where Mr. Brooks' words were spoken, and in presence of such Grand Army veterans as might be gathered for such occasion. The pressure of other important matters has precluded this, but we think it both timely and fitting to thus call attention in our columns to this event in Medford's history that occurred a half century since.

It seems eminently fitting that the new memorial we have mentioned should find place in the designing of the new civic structure that must serve for many years to come, and the names of those who gave up their lives in our country's service be there inscribed in enduring bronze.

In our public square, they will be read by many, and such memorial will there teach lessons of patriotism that the memorial erected by the former generation does not and cannot do.

## MEDFORD IN 1821.

Now that our old town house and city hall is gone it may be well to consider what Medford was at the time just prior to its building. The story of its construction has been compiled from the records, and ably written in the REGISTER (Vol. IX, p. 40) by Miss Wild, and we commend its careful perusal. The architect was one of the best of his time, and the builders did their work well. What present workmen know how to do such work in wood, now that iron work has come into use?

Our veteran townsman, Francis Wait, has compiled from the state census, taken in 1821, the following items of interest:—

## STATE VALUATION TAKEN 1821 TOWN OF MEDFORD

Polls 16 years to 20 years	30		Acres of tillage Land	394
Polls 21 years upwards	202	246	Bushells of Rye	65
Polls o not Ratable	2		Bushells Indian Corn	5230
Polls Supported by the town	12		Bushells Barley	295
Dwelling houses	152½		Beans & peas	6
Shops in the Same	2		English mowing	877
other Shops	19		Tons Eng <sup>h</sup> Hay	751
Distill houses	4		Saltmarsh	535
Tan Houses	3		Tons of Hay from the same	416
Slaughter houses	3		Cows the whole farm will keep	394
Grist mill	1		Barrels of Cyder	128
Saw mills	1		unimproved Land	1253
Bake Houses	2		Land improvable	130
Barns	121		acres of Land for Roads	160
other Buildings Value 20 dollars	66		Land owned by the town	10
Superficial feet of Wharf	2240		Land covered by water	434
Stock in Trade	5350		Horses	105
Money at Interest	69050		Oxen	78
money on hand or in any Bank	18300		Cows	237
Bank Stock	1300		Swine	131
Ounces Plate	575			
Shares in toll Bridges	17		Total amount of Real Estate	384440
			Total amount of Personal Estate	186259
				<u>570690</u>

Some interesting deductions may be made from these statistics. Medford was then a town of one thousand five hundred inhabitants. The polls were about one-sixth, their votes one-eighth, and the boys and young men (ten to twenty years) one fiftieth of the population; this last seems a small proportion, but perhaps the girls were in the majority.

The number of dwellings shows that an average of ten persons inhabited them, with perhaps two polls in most of them. That half house probably joined the line next Malden, Charlestown or Woburn. Medford was then certainly in the rural district, for the number of barns was four-fifths that of the dwellings. The one hundred and five horses were not enough to allow each barn one, but the cows were enough to average two, though the Medford farms might have accommodated one hundred and fifty-seven more.

Then there were thirty-nine yoke of oxen. Wouldn't they be a sight on the Medford roads today? Who knows when the last ox-team was owned in Medford, or who drove it?

One hundred and thirty-one swine were enough to keep the hogreeve busy. As the family pig was in evidence in those days, the number is not excessive, and probably the piglets were not enumerated.

Medford land produced a little less than a ton of hay to the acre, and the salt marshes about the same proportion. The tillage land was about one-half the grass land, and two-thirds the salt meadow acreage, but the unimprovable land we know as the Fells about equalled both the latter. The roads, river and ponds were of about the same area as the productive marshes, and two-thirds the area of the grass land. The tillage land might have been increased one-third, by the area of improvable land.

Medford's staple product (at least as shown by these statistics) was Indian corn. Its barley and rye only about a fifteenth as much, while the *six bushels* of peas and *beans* looks insignificant, considering the proximity to Boston.

No statistics of orchards are given, but the one hundred and twenty-eight barrels of "Cyder" would have averaged three-quarters to each dwelling. There is no reference to that beverage that made Medford famous, except that *four* distill houses outclassed other industrial pursuits. Slaughtering of cattle and tanning of their hides kept pace with each other in *three* places.

Medford had even then paid the penalty for forest destruction in the loss of its water power of the brooks, and only one grist- and one saw-mill are named, these on the tidal river. Its two "bake houses" were the predecessors of the Medford cracker.

Two householders had shops in their dwellings, and nineteen other shops were named. Perhaps some were the little New England shoe-shops, though these last may have been among the "other buildings, value 20 dollars" that numbered sixty-six.

Parson Osgood, in his somewhat peculiar letter to his sweetheart, tells of some Medford people being "bridge mad." Not the *present* "bridge" of social functions, but Malden bridge across the Mystic. Here is the evidence, "Shares in toll bridges 17."

It would be interesting to know how the Medford tradesmen did business with a stock of only fifty-three hundred and fifty dollars, but prices were not like today's. The wealth of the little old town is indicated by the items, "Bank stock, money at interest and on hand"; while the "ounces of plate" shows the style affected by the wealthiest ones.

We have read somewhat of the ship-building and commerce of Medford, and the wharfrage space (only fifty per cent. larger than our new society home covers) seems rather inadequate.

If we add the old third meeting-house (there was then no other), the few schoolhouses Medford then had to the barns, houses and half house, and include the shops and all other structures, we will find that three hundred and seventy-five will be an ample total for the Medford buildings of ninety-five years ago.

Our city has grown from this to its present proportions during the lifetime of our friend who has copied and sends to the REGISTER these statistics, which we have thus reviewed briefly. Doubtless by others many other interesting points may be seen.

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### MOVING FORWARD.

In our last issue we alluded to a forward movement. This issue is delayed that the progress of the same may be recorded as current Medford history.

The Historical Society has purchased of the city of Medford a somewhat peculiar but eligible site on Governors avenue and begun the building of a permanent home. Work thereon has progressed so far that the foundations are laid, the basement enclosed and floor-timbers in place.

On Saturday, September 30, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate exercises. During the weeks the work has been in progress there was but little rain, but on Friday evening the intense heat and drought was terminated by a copious rainfall and a resultant change in weather conditions. But for the contrasting chill and breeze the day was ideal for the occasion, and at four o'clock members and friends in goodly number assembled, filling the improvised seats on the temporary floor, for the beginning of the realization of a cherished hope and fond dream.

It was fitting that the last speaker in the old home should be first in the new, and so Rev. Anson Titus of Somerville gave the invocation: —

God of the nations, Jehovah of old, Thou art the guardian of the generations, Thou preservest the people, thou knowest all they do and desire. Thy presence we invoke in the placing of this stone, which we pray may be set for Thee and the welfare of Thy people; that on this corner may be builded that which will be for the preservation of interests dear to this city. Thou wast with the fathers, we pray Thy presence with the sons. Gather with us, keep near to us, make us to serve and honor Thee ever, evermore. Amen.

The President then made a brief historical statement, saying that this occasion was the beginning of the twentieth anniversary celebration, of which we trust the "house-warming" will be the finish within this year 1916. The greetings of the city were briefly and ably spoken by His Honor, Mayor Haines. Former Presidents Will C. Eddy and Henry Edwards Scott gave expression of their satisfaction that at last the Society was to have an attractive and convenient home. Their remarks were followed by the poem written for the occasion by a member (who modestly wished his name withheld), and read by Miss Alice E. Curtis.

Beside the banks of Mystic stream,  
The scene of Winthrop's toil and dream;  
And Cradock's pride in power of State,  
And Royall's house of beauty great;  
A home of modern day we raise  
With grateful thought of earlier days.

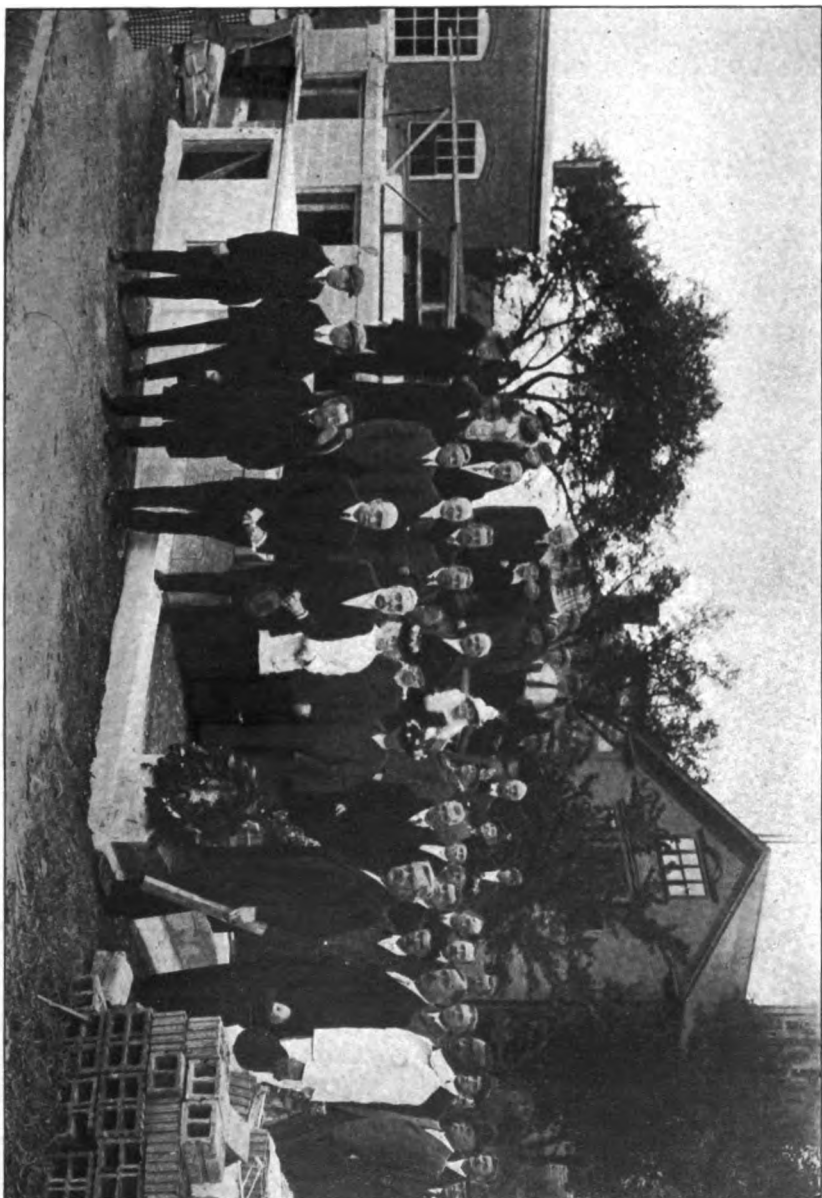
Could Winthrop stand upon this spot  
Well might he say "I know it not,"  
And Royall from the stately home,  
Whose acres broad he loved to roam,  
Would gaze with a bewildered look,  
Back to the mansion he forsook.

And are we in Old Medford still,  
Woods, streams and pastures, vale and hill  
All changed in form by modern hand?  
Our forebears could not know this land.  
We miss the forms by Nature lent,  
We bow to change by centuries sent.

Changed though the land, by Nature given,  
Old Medford's spirit works its leaven,  
And memory clings to days of old,  
With reverent thought their good we hold,  
Though changed be wood, and field and hill,  
To us it is Old Medford still.

How best to show the love we bear  
And others lead, our work to share,  
To safely guard through fleeting time,  
The treasures that deserve a shrine,  
This building to such work we give,  
Historic Medford long shall live.

—C. H. L.



LAYING CORNER-STONE OF NEW SOCIETY BUILDING.





The congratulations of neighboring societies were extended in felicitous addresses by Hon. James Parker Parmenter, President, of Arlington; Charles Edward Mann of Malden; and in absence of President Carpenter, by Albert L. Haskell of Somerville. The President then read a list of the contents of the copper box to be deposited beneath the stone:—

- First and latest issue of the REGISTER.
- Latest issue of *Mercury, Messenger and Review*.
- Boston Transcript*, September 29.
- Medford City Manual, 1916.
- Historic Festival—On the Banks of the Mystic.
- List of members at present date, September, 1916.
- List of Presidents of the Society.
- Poem written for the occasion.
- Sermon and address at 250th Anniversary of the First Church in Medford.
- Medford High School *Review*, June, 1916.
- Course of Study in Medford High School.
- Directory of Teachers in Medford High School, 1916-17.
- Photograph of old City Hall.
- Print of new City Hall.
- Banquet Program, 275th Anniversary, June 15, 1905.
- Commemoration Exercises, June 15, 1905.
- Dedication Program enlarged High School, November 20, 1914.
- Catalogue of Loan Collection at Royall House, October 12 to 20, 1896.
- The Parada given by the Medford Historical Society, 1903.
- Annual Announcements of Medford Historical Society.
- Lincoln Centenary, February 12, 1909.
- Book Plate of Society (impression).
- Guide to tablets marking historic sites, 1905.
- Indian arrowhead, found on High street near Train estate.
- Cheese, cracker and rum with certificate.
- Medford Granite, Medford Red Gravel, wild flowers and sumac leaves from lot.
- Card of Inspector of Buildings.

Some merriment was indulged in as those typical of "Old Medford" were named.

The stone was donated by the West Medford Real Estate Trust, which purchased the grounds and mansion erected by Hon. Peter C. Brooks in the years 1802-6.

This is now gone, and the stone is that of the front entrance porch and carriage drive, and now, after a century's use, is of historic interest, and bears the incised date of its new use, 1916, on its circular front.

Prayer was next offered by Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Leitch of Trinity Church (Methodist Episcopal)

“O God our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home.”

As needy as any that have passed before us in the journey of life we lift our hearts unto Thee our Heavenly Father, the Creator, Redeemer and Saviour of mankind. Hear, we beseech Thee, our humble prayer, and inspire our hearts to keep Thy law. We pray Thy blessing upon this gathering. Bless this enterprise. Bless the officers, the members and friends of the Medford Historical Society. We are met to lay the corner-stone of this building. We are reminded of the passing years. We build to preserve that which other hands and hearts have cherished and loved. Some day other hands and hearts will gather to preserve from the ravages of time that which we hold precious, that through which we pass our lives. May we learn wisdom from what this hour suggests. Help us in the building of our lives to build upon the imperishable. May the corner-stone of our characters be built upon the Rock of Ages, may it be plumed and squared with the principles of truth and righteousness and laid in the cement of eternal love. Impress upon our minds the truth.

“The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,  
And all that beauty, all that wealth, e'er gave,  
Await alike the inevitable hour.  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.”

May Thy blessing rest upon the city of Medford and its inhabitants. Bless the chief executive the mayor, and those who hold offices of trust. May each use his office for the welfare of the municipality and feel that trust is of God for the welfare of the people. Bless the commonwealth of Massachusetts, the governor of the state. Bless and endue with wisdom the legislators and administrators of law. May righteous laws and sound discretion preserve us from calamity. Help us to learn that “Blessed is the people whose God is the Lord and blessed is the nation that maketh God their trust.” Hear us, O God, our Maker. Pardon our sins, bring us at last unto Thyself.

All of which we ask in the name and grace of Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

The company then repaired to its site, and after depositing the box in the concrete base the stone was placed in position by the President, assisted by workman Kelley. Symbolical of the varied talents which are brought into the work of the Society, the mortar used in its setting was of a composite character. Water having been taken from the city supply, the reservoir on College hill, Mystic lake and Spot pond, was mixed with salt water from the river and the soft rain water that fell on the previous evening. This was used in tempering, and finally poured upon the stone by our Secretary, who also provided the beautiful wreath of salvia and bouquet of wild flowers that lay upon it. The President applied the plumb and level, and finding it correct, with a hammer struck three blows, declaring it well, truly and safely laid, adding, "May the Giver of all good

• The heads that plan endue with skill,  
The hands that work preserve from ill,  
That we who these foundations lay  
May bring the capstone in its day."

Two verses of "America" were then sung, with cornet accompaniment by Mr. George Weston, and the benediction pronounced by Rev. George M. Butler of the Mystic Church.

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#### **MEDFORD MARKET-PLACE MADE MODERN.**

In the June (1915) issue of the REGISTER we recorded some current history under the above caption, alluding to a proposed improvement not yet realized, and suggested some that might later come. Relative to this we quote our own words: —

It will only remain for the city of Medford to cure what need *not* be endured, by the purchase of its neighbors' holdings on both sides of the ancient but much-maligned city hall, and erect on their sites a substantial municipal building such as may spread its protecting mantle over the less beautiful neighbors' defects. Then Medford square, bigger, better and busier, may be made modern, and creditably, too. Will this latter ever be history?

We think it will, judging by present appearances, though we scarcely expected the change so soon. The above came from the press early in June (Vol. XVIII, p. 46). In the *Medford Mercury* of June 25 the mayor wrote to the public, saying,

"I shall ask the aldermen to assist me in purchasing at a reasonable figure the building in the square next the present city hall, and we can then cut off the corner into Main street and open up Medford square where the city hall now is and build a municipal office building.

We are aware that as usual in such matters there are differences of opinion relative to sites. These we are not discussing. We are recording matters of history. At the present writing all the five buildings have been razed and the space between High street and the river lies open, but not for long, as contracts for the foundations of the new structure are awarded. This will certainly be in marked contrast to those removed, and will add to the attractiveness of our water park as no business buildings that *might* (or more likely might not) be erected could do. By courtesy of Mayor Haines we present a view of the same, made from the architect's drawing.

The city's executive offices are at present housed in the new "Medford Building," recently erected on the sites of the old Seccomb house and Tufts hall. Into this several Medford merchants have moved and some new business concerns have come. Medford's old marketplace is thus made *more* modern, "bigger, busier, and better."

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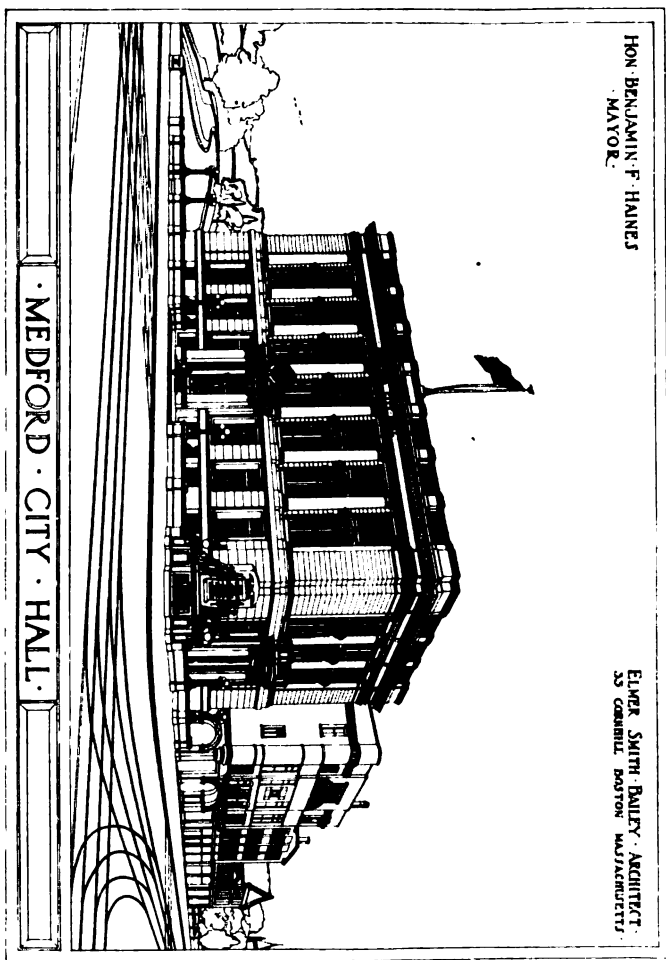
#### LAWRENCE LIGHT GUARD HOME AGAIN.

After four months' absence (almost to the hour) Company E, Fifth Regiment, returned on October 21, with unbroken ranks, from their service at the border.

Met at Tufts square by the veterans of the Grand Army, and city officials, and escorted by the high school battalion, in solid formation with swinging stride our

HON. BENJAMIN F. HAINES  
MAYOR.

ELMER SMITH BAILEY, ARCHITECT.  
33 CORNHILL, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.



· MEDFORD · CITY · HALL ·



soldier boys marched into Medford square at 11.45 o'clock to the inspiring strains of "Onward Christian Soldier" by the Everett City Band. At Governors avenue the column turned, and recrossing the square marched to the common, where the greeting and welcome of the city was extended by the mayor, after which the assembled throng gave expression to theirs in three rousing cheers and a vociferous tiger. The march was then resumed to the armory, and as the great doors closed behind them the boys realized it was "home again" for them.

In our last issue we had barely space (page 70) to allude to their departure, which we witnessed, and to call attention to our illustration, showing the company at attention during the mayor's address. As we flung out the flag in greeting from the window of our rooms, where we also watched their departure, we could but notice a change in the appearance of the assembled throng. The tense, strained look upon the faces of the elders had given place to glad smiles and shouts of welcome, and behind it all, a thankfulness that Medford's boys had *all* come back. And the Grand Army men, the Boys in Blue of the Civil War, though now so few, in their welcome of the Boys in Khaki, showed the same feeling, intensified by the memory of *their* times and home coming. The events of today are history tomorrow. As such the REGISTER notes this event, and our laureate adds the following tribute:—

COMPANY E.

In days of June, sweet smiling June,  
When queenly roses bloomed,  
The peace that brooded o'er our land  
Was threatened by a hostile hand,  
Black clouds of warfare loomed.  
The states were roused from sea to sea,  
We said good-bye to "Boys of E."

We hear the trumpet's joyful sound  
One bright October day,

And streets resound with rhythmic tramp  
Of men returning from the camp

Flags blazing all the way.

While eager throngs press close to see  
And welcome home the "Boys of E."

Quick beats our heart for soldier lads,  
We hold them as our own.

In peace, in war, whate'er the call,  
One crowning thought must govern all,

One flag, one country, one alone.

Secure our faith shall ever be,  
That duty rules the "Boys of E."

C. H. L.

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### A MEDFORD TEACHER.

ELLEN M. BARR.

About half-way between Mt. Monadnock, N. H., and Mt. Wachusett, Mass., lies the little village of New Ipswich, N. H., where may be found a large old-fashioned mansion dating back to 1768, and belonging to the Barrs.

On one side stands a large willow tree with the most comfortable rustic seats built among its trunk-like branches. In this colonial house, with its large fireplaces and cozy-corners, was born, in 1840, a little girl destined to become one of Medford's most beloved and influential teachers.

The *New England Magazine* states that James Barr, a Scotch gentleman traveling in the American colonies, was caught here when war was declared against Great Britain, and falling in love with a bright-eyed New Hampshire maiden, never went back to his Highland home.

"His son, Dr. James Barr, prominent as a physician in New Ipswich, endeared himself for miles around for his sturdy character and genial wit." He married Laura L. Bellows of Walpole, N. H., daughter of Col. Caleb, and granddaughter of Gen. Benjamin Bellows, an officer of the Revolutionary War.

In the Barr mansion Dr. and Mrs. Barr reared a family of seven children, the following of whom have been connected with Medford's history: Mr. George Barr, who



married Maria Lawrence, purchased, but never occupied, the Royall House. The last of his life was lived in a house built by his brother-in-law, Samuel T. Ames, on Oakland, corner of Chestnut street. Mr. Ames's son, James Barr Ames, was dean of Harvard Law School. Another brother-in-law, Sanford B. Perry, Esq., built and occupied the house next to Mr. Ames.

A sister, Miss C. Frances Barr, was a Medford teacher from 1853 to 1858. Medford's school report for 1854 has the following: —

The Everett Primary School, taught by Miss C. Frances Barr, maintains with great evenness its former high reputation. An incumbrance of overgrown and ignorant boys, some, twelve years of age, whom the committee thought it wise and just to retain at their true level, has been a source of trial to teacher and committee; but the perseverance of Miss Barr has not been thereby foiled of its reward.

Miss Ellen M. Barr, the youngest of Dr. Barr's children, came to Medford a young girl, attended our high school under Mr. Cummings, and later gave to its teaching force a part of her active and earnest life. In answer to my inquiry, her sister, Miss Fanny Barr, writes: —

There was nothing unusual in my sister's character in her early life. She, like many New England girls, was bright, affectionate and wide-awake. She began her education in the public school of her native town, afterwards attending our Appleton Academy and then going to the Medford High School. She was a pupil of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, and also had private instructions in music and language in Philadelphia.

At the age of eighteen she went as a governess to Arkansas, in the family of Hon. Robert W. Johnson, a member of U. S. Senate and of Jefferson Davis' Cabinet during the Civil War. She was there two or three years, thoroughly enjoying her duties and the delightful society with which she was brought in touch. So loyal was she to the North, that she refused to sew an Arkansas star on a Confederate flag, and left the South on the last train that could bring her to the North.

Her first school in Medford was the Swan Intermediate, which she taught from November 11, 1861, to April 1, 1864. One of her pupils, Mr. Herbert N. Aker-

man, recalls the fact that the children picked lint and made stripes and epaulets for the soldiers. He also told this incident, which occurred when Miss Barr was attending the high school. A classmate of hers, feeling sure of her position at the head, made this remark, "It is rather monotonous, being at the head all the time." Miss Barr quickly responded, "Then I'll break that monotony for you." This she did, and retained the place till the close of the year.

Miss Barr was called to the high school to be Mr. Charles Cummings' assistant March 1, 1866, which place she held until the summer of 1875, when she left to devote a year to study in Europe. At this time her salary amounted to thirteen hundred dollars, the largest sum she received in Medford. In the school report for 1875-6 may be found this comment:—

Miss E. M. Barr's return to her place in the school was greeted with satisfaction by her old pupils and by the public at large. The committee have seen with pleasure that she brings to the discharge of her duties all her former energy and enthusiasm, securing even more than the old measure of success.

At the end of the term of 1877 Miss Barr left Medford to take charge of an endowed school for girls in South Boston. The school report for that year reads as follows:—

The committee were reluctantly compelled, at the close of the summer term, to accept the resignation of Miss Ellen M. Barr, she having a call to a higher and more lucrative position in Boston. The committee gratefully acknowledge the service she rendered to the High School during her long connection with it. She brought to the discharge of her duties not only sound scholarship, energy, and habits of systematic labor, but a weight of character which did much to elevate the tone of the school.

Mrs. Walter Cabot of Brookline, wishing to open a school in Boston for her own daughter and a few of their friends, invited Miss Barr to take charge of it. After two or three years in this school Miss Barr decided to open a school of her own. For this purpose she built a house in Marlborough street, and met with eminent suc-



ELLEN M. BARR.



cess. The History of New Ipswich, referring to this effort says: —

Miss E. M. Barr's school for girls in Boston for ten years was recognized as one of the best ever conducted in that city. Few teachers in New England have had the confidence and admiration of so great a circle of friends.

In 1893 she gave up this school and made a journey around the world, returning in May, 1894. She was taken very ill in India and never fully recovered.

In February, 1895, I had the extreme pleasure of meeting Miss Barr in Boston, and took advantage of the much-longed-for opportunity to say, "If I have the influence over one of my pupils that you have had on *my* life I shall feel that that life has not been lived in vain." The smile of heart-felt pleasure she gave me will never be forgotten.

This was my last opportunity. The following week brought the sad news that our beloved teacher and friend was at rest.

At the twenty-fourth annual reunion of the Medford High School Association Miss Annie H. Ryder, a pupil and afterward an assistant of Miss Barr's paid the following tribute to her memory, which I fully believe was heartily endorsed by every one who came under the influence of this more than teacher. She said: —

"My friends, since you welcomed to your last reunion, as guest of honor, a teacher of former years, she has gone from this life. The nights of her earthly striving, the nobility of her endeavor, are changed. Yet human hearts are frail to bear the parting from lives like hers — so strong in themselves, such inspirations of strength unto others — that not even the thought of death occurs to us in regarding them. Small though my tribute be — a mere blade of grass where else should be the victor's wreath — in all gratitude and love, I place it to the memory of Ellen M. Barr; a woman who inspired love of duty as few can inspire, aye! made it sacred to every pupil whose life she touched; a teacher who lifted the eyes of her scholars to culture's heights, and never allowed them to look upon anything debasing farther down the way. Her memory lives in lives made better, stronger, happier by her presence, and though time pass, the responsibility she imparted to make the utmost of one's self —

*this* will hold her forever in our hearts. O, say not the past has no charm like the present, when it has given us a teacher and friend like this! Say not that such lives have not been at the very foundation of present prosperity."

What more fitting tribute to a teacher! Just to see her was an inspiration. I dearly prize this quotation she wrote in my album, for her life proved that she believed it:

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me  
'Tis only noble to be good.  
Kind hearts are more than coronets,  
And simple faith, than Norman blood."

She left to Radcliffe College between fifty and sixty thousand dollars, to be used as scholarships. Some of Medford's girls have taken advantage of the privilege so graciously held out to them.

ANNIE E. DURGIN.

#### AT OUR SOCIETY'S MEETINGS.

We resume the record closing in Vol. XVII, p. 72, and begin the season of 1914-15.

On October 19 Moses W. Mann presented "The Cruise of the Merrimack," an extract of which appeared in the REGISTER as "Medford Steamboat Days."

November 16, Rosewell B. Lawrence, Esq., gave us a delightful illustrated account of his "Trip to the Hawaiian Islands."

December 20, Mrs. Augusta Brigham read her interesting story, "Ten Soldier Brothers in the Revolution."

At the annual meeting, on January 18, 1915, Mr. John H. Hooper read of Aaron K. Hathaway, "An Old Medford Schoolmaster."

February 15, Mr. George C. Wolkins of the Old South Association read, "The Old South Meeting-house."

March 15 was "Old Home Evening," when Mr. George Hersey, in an informal talk, with numerous lantern slides, presented the old landmarks, dwellings and citizens of earlier years.

April 19 was a patriotic observance. The President

directed the exercises and was ably assisted by the Misses Rowan, Falt, Grimes and Meloon, the latter furnishing mandolin selections, and also playing the old London piano. This gathering was the one most fully attended in the season.

May 17 proved a very stormy day, and the attendance at what proved to be the last meeting in our old home, as well as the last meeting of the season, was extremely small. Rev. Anson Titus of Somerville gave a most interesting lecture on "Some Economic Conditions at the Close of the Revolution."

The season of 1915-16 found the Society housed in hired quarters (as the REGISTER has noted), and opened on October 18. The President read his "message," which is on file in the records, making a clear statement of the Society's affairs. These were discussed at some length and laid over till the next meeting. Light refreshments were served.

The November meeting was devoted to discussion of ways and means, and the reports of committees relative to securing other and permanent quarters.

On December 20 Mr. Charles F. Read, clerk of Bostonian Society, gave "A Schoolboy's Recollections of the Civil War."

The annual meeting, January 17, 1916, was devoted to reports and election of officers.

February 21 we were honored with the presence of George and Martha Washington, in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Fenton, who sustained their parts with dignity and grace. Master Topezia and Miss Jergueson, also in costume, vied with their elders, and danced a minuet to the accompaniment of the ancient seraphine. Mr. Edward Finnegan (High School, 1916) read the Farewell Address, and mandolin music was rendered by Miss Myrtle Meloon and Mrs. Grace Savage. Among the patriotic airs was the "Star Spangled Banner," which brought the company to its feet. As in the previous year, this was the largest attendance.

On March 20 Mr. Gordon Boit Wellman of Malden entertained us with the "Ornithology of Middlesex Fells," to the delight of all.

The paper at the meeting of April 12, by Mr. Frank Woods Lovering (who was unavoidably absent), was read by Mr. Edwin Crosby — "The Story of the West Medford Baptist Church." The choir of that church sang several hymns to the airs of "Duke Street," "Coronation" and "Miles' Lane," organist Sefton accompanying upon the seraphine. The external accompaniment was a *deluge* that made the attendance unusually small.

On May 15 a goodly number assembled to hear of "The American High School," from Principal J. D. Howlett, an address of unusual interest. Adjournment was made, subject to the call of the President, and on Friday, June 30, a meeting was held to hear and act upon committee's recommendations. These were adopted with conditions (already met), and by adjournment another meeting held on September 29, when report of progress was made, as appears elsewhere in this issue.

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#### ON THE UPPER MYSTIC.

Passers along Boston avenue, while crossing Canal bridge, frequently stop to view the river, the sweep of the parkway and the railway arches over both. But more are especially interested in the incessant bubbling in the river's surface, a little way down stream. Many conjectures are made as to its cause, some very fanciful. The majority attribute it to a subterranean spring, stronger than the river's flow. It was first observed some twenty years since, and is more noticeable since the building of the dam at Cradock bridge, and the consequent cessation of the tidal flow above said dam.

Comparatively few know that at this point a branch of the Metropolitan sewer passes beneath the river, and that air from within its siphon is forced through an imperfection in its masonry. It has been thus from its first use, and efforts to remedy the same have been unavailing.







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**MEDFORD**

**J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER**

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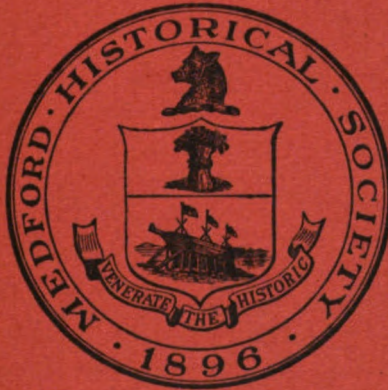


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Vol. XX.]

[No. I.]

# Historical Register



JANUARY, 1917

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MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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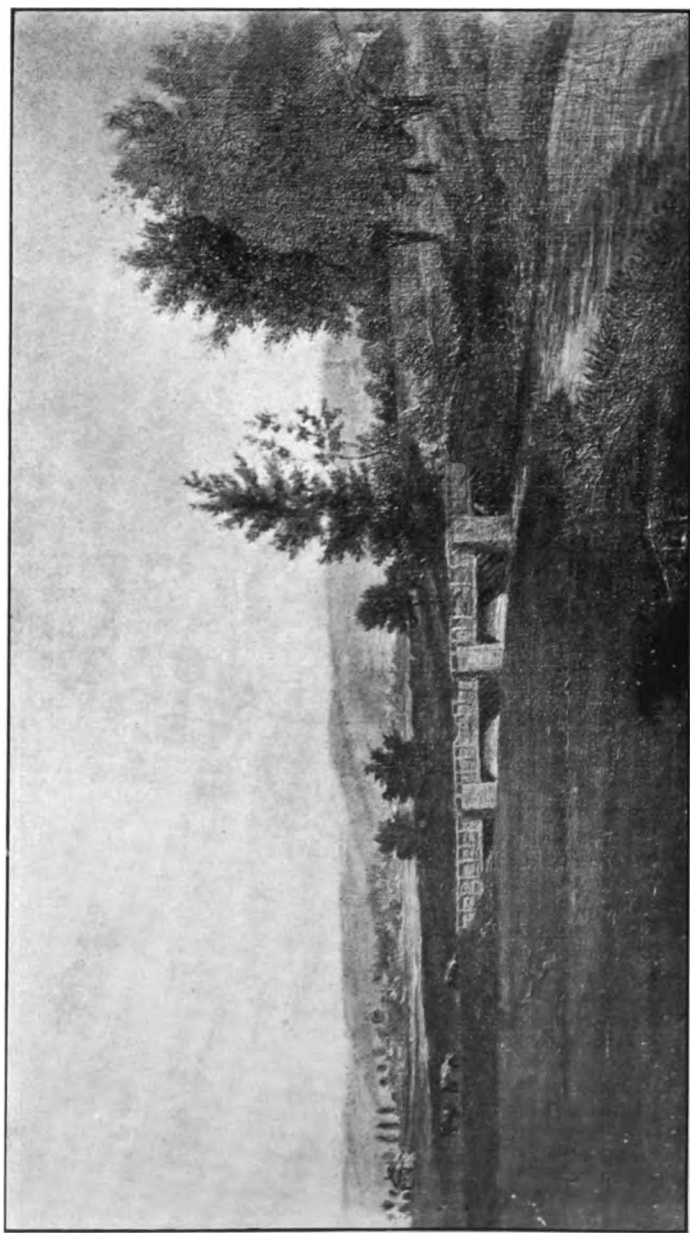
I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.







CANAL AQUEDUCT ACROSS MYSTIC RIVER, 1865.  
Old house in distance is that of Henry Dunster, First President of Harvard College.

# The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XX.

JANUARY, 1917.

No. 1.

## MEDFORD'S DISUSED SUBWAY.

[BY MOSES W. MANN.]

WE remarked recently in the hearing of several persons, "There's a subway a mile and a half long in Medford." Our auditors, first incredulous, were later curious to know where it might be, and we told them—of its size, location, and purpose for which it was constructed.

It lies beneath Jerome and Sherman streets, crosses under High, and extends through the former Brooks estate to Mystic upper lake. Its terminal stations were the brick gate-houses beside the river and above the dam that separates the two divisions of what used to be called Medford ponds ere this was built.

It is, or rather was, a sub-waterway, the conduit of the Charlestown Water Works. At the time of its building, public water works were confined to the larger cities. The city of Charlestown, after considering various sources of supply, decided upon Medford pond, whose watershed extended backward to the divide between the Ipswich and Aberjona rivers in Wilmington.

By natural configuration Medford pond lent itself well to the design. The Narrows, or the Partings, were the names by which the location of the impounding dam had been previously known. It must have been a picturesque spot. We have found no view of it preserved by artist's brush or pencil of those pre-camera days, but have heard it much spoken of.

Two wedge-shaped portions of Medford and West Cambridge extended into the pond so nearly that a plank would bridge the strait, and in which was but slight fall.

Of this entire work of so much magnitude and importance but little has been preserved in Medford annals,

and but for the fact that one of the engineers engaged on the work made a private record of his doings from start to finish it would be difficult at this time to ascertain the facts.

Preliminary surveys were begun "on a high bluff east of the Narrows on April 14, 1862," by two engineers, with a laborer to assist, and on April 16 Roberdeau Buchanan joined them. It was he who made the record to which we allude. It is illustrated by accurate drawings of the entire work, explanatory of the text of his record, and is now in the office of the Metropolitan Water Commission, by whose courtesy we were permitted to examine its interesting pages and compile this account.

These engineers reached Walnut hill, the site of the distributing reservoir, on April 25, 1862, and it is interesting to note just here, that in their more than two-mile walk they passed near to no dwellings until reaching Winthrop, then called South street, where there was a house which was later the residence of Mr. J. W. Perkins. Seventeen houses, four of which were upon the Brooks estate, comprised all then west of and near the railway, and but three buildings housed Tufts College then. Contrast this open plain and hill-slope with existing conditions and population.

On April 21 another party began a survey westward toward Wyman hill in West Cambridge, on which the reservoir would have been located had that route or plan been chosen. But the eastern route, suggested by engineers Baldwin and Stevenson in 1859 was decided upon and work begun thereon by survey on May 19, 1862. The actual work upon this portion was begun on January 8, 1863, in the construction of the coffer-dam for the gate-house and bridge across the Mystic.

Just here we obtain a hint of the forestry conditions at the "Partings" then existing:—

Piles, of white oak *recently cut near* the pond . . . 11 pairs 13 feet apart and 15 feet between the two rows, driven 4 to 5 feet below the bed of the river.

These piles supported a narrow bridge 143.9 feet long, and were a part of the coffer-dam within which the conduit was built beneath the river. This conduit here consisted of two 36-inch iron pipes, placed five feet from centers, laid in and covered with concrete and puddled on either side. The cost of this (bridge and pipe) section was \$6,700.00.

We were told years ago by Supt. Luther Symmes, that at that time the commissioners made effort with Medford selectmen to have our town share in the expense of a wider and more desirable bridge, as this was in the line of a proposed street, but without success. Built as originally designed, and though the traveling public had no right therein, it served as the only passage across the river between Harvard avenue and Winthrop street until Canal bridge and Boston avenue were opened. It continued in use until 1910, and since its removal has been greatly missed.

The two iron pipes mentioned form 485½ feet of the conduit from pump-well to gate-house. The remainder is of brick construction, the lower portion a semicircle of five feet inside diameter, the upper an oval of two axes, giving an inside height of five feet and eight inches. The invert is laid in a bed of concrete, and in various places this required a pile and timber support.

As the lower pond received the inflow of the tide twice daily, an artificial channel with automatic gates was made in the river below Wear bridge to keep out the flood, and removed at completion of the work. Even then, and with the aid of two steam pumps, but 30 feet could be built at a time, and some sections had to be rebuilt because of insecure foundation.

Inlets were provided in the top at regular intervals, but nearly all were permanently covered beneath the surface of the ground, leaving but a few with removable iron covers. We recall one of these near Harvard avenue, which was a sort of way-station used by the operating workmen, who entered for the purpose of sweeping the

bottom, which had but one-inch incline in 100 feet on its course.

Among the trees (the "Mystic hickories") on the Brooks estate was a star-shaped brick structure, about nine feet high, with overhanging roof, which served as a ventilator. We once saw an attractive water-color of this in a West Medford home and hoped to secure it for illustration. Recent inquiry failed us, and it is probably lost. No longer needed, this structure was removed in the building of the Parkway.

The conduit in one place lies close to the course of the famous old waterway, the Middlesex canal. Indeed, the old canal contributed to its construction by the removal of one of the banks to grade over the new structure, as shown in Mr. Buchanan's drawing and record.

The slopes of the old Middlesex Canal have been cut down as far as the conduit is built so as to make a four-foot fill on the center and eight feet wide on top, and from the outer edge of the canal to the inner edge of the back filling it is graded off like the following section.

[Then follows drawing.]

The conduit was finished on October 12, 1864, and on October 31 water was let in as far as the waste-gate near the river and all loose dirt washed out, and on the following day to the pumping station.

Two years and a half had elapsed since the engineers began work. The entire system, of which this was but an essential part, was also complete and ready for service. At one time three hundred and fifty men were employed, making a scene of busy activity along its course through Medford.

The completed works supplied not only Charlestown, but Somerville, East Boston, Chelsea and Everett, and were taken over by Boston on the annexation of Charlestown, and later by the Metropolitan Commission. Because of the pollution of the water by the leather factories of Woburn and Winchester this Mystic supply was abandoned in 1898, and since that time this brick conduit

has been the disused subway of which we spoke in beginning. That it will ever be used again now appears unlikely, unless, indeed—and who knows?—some new and now unthought-of industry, public or otherwise, should arise, to which this great work of a half century ago may in some equally unthought-of way lend itself.

Of the dam at the "Partings," the pumping station and reservoir we may make other mention as of interest in Medford annals.

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### MEDFORD HILLSIDE.

There are many of them, but the term is distinctively applied to but one, the northwestern slope of Walnut, now for half a century called College hill. As a portion of the so-called Hillside district is included in the level plain beside the railway, and its development has been in a way different from the real Hillside, this sketch will deal with that mainly.

The name came into use when the present station house of the railroad was built. Prior to its building, the depot, as it was called, was on the opposite side of the railway cut, reached from the tracks by one long flight of stairs, and was appropriately known as Medford steps. When disused, the old station house was moved to Auburn street near the river, and later crowded out by the Parkway to Cotting street, where it now remains, a dwelling.

From early times there had been two "rangeways" through this territory, from Menotomy road to the Mystic, one became Winthrop street in Medford, the other North street. The first proved the most convenient stopping place for the Medford patrons of the railroad, which laid its track between two towns all the way from Boston to Lowell.

The college was established in 1850, and had only three buildings when the reservoir and gate-house was constructed in 1863. One dwelling, the home of J. W.

Perkins, had been built on Winthrop street west of the railroad a little earlier. C. C. Stevens came next in 1870, building his house on North street. No highway crossed the Mystic between Winthrop and Usher bridges till 1873, so when Mr. Stevens moved his barns from his former residence on Warren street in West Medford, they went via High street to Winthrop square, crossing the river and railway on the Winthrop street bridges, then down across the field, a roundabout journey, to the spot where one still remains. At that date, the embankments, tow-path and bed of the disused Middlesex canal could be plainly seen, extending from Coting street westward to the railroad and through the Somerville appendix, to the river. The slowly decaying aqueduct, with its abutments of boulders and its granite piers, still spanned the river — a picturesque ruin. Because of the fact that a citizen of Medford, Nathan Brown, had eyes to see, and skill to paint, and that others appreciated his work, we of today may know how that locality appeared in 1865.

When Mr. Stevens moved to the Hillside, in 1870, Medford's entire population west of the railroad consisted of an even dozen of families. In 1871 the new owners of the Smith estate (the level plain of West Medford) purchased a tract called the "Osgood estate," bordering on North street. This was laid out in small lots, with Adams and Quincy streets intersected by others, and plans plotted. The long-disused stonework of the canal aqueduct invited a crossing of the river by Boston avenue, and strange to say this was opposed by some. The wisdom of the county commissioners in its laying out is amply justified, however.

In those years the elder Josiah Quincy of Boston had formulated a plan which resulted in a co-operative company of fifty working men, called the "Quincy Associates." Their purpose was the acquiring of homes of moderate cost, in a manner similar to the methods of the co-operative banks. Mr. Quincy was indeed, a little later, the originator of that banking system in Massachusetts.



The Associates divided into two branches, one selecting home sites in Dedham, the other at Medford Hillside, mainly on Adams street. Those locating at Dedham erected houses chiefly of one design, which was in accord with Mr. Quincy's idea. It was a forerunner of the Queen Anne style that obtained later, and perhaps designed by an artist friend of Mr. Quincy.

The Medford section became impatient at the delay in the financing of their enterprise, and some proceeded to the erection of houses on the lots they had selected. Six were built in the fall of 1872, five constructed by the late John H. Norton. Four were practically of the same design, and the other planned by the writer, who built the sixth to plans made by its owner. All were on Adams street and were, on completion, occupied by Messrs. Fuller, Rockwood and Moakler (on the left going south) and Messrs. Bartlett, Cooper and Briggs on the opposite side (returning). Mr. Cooper, after some years, removed from town, while only Mr. Rockwood remains a resident. Mr. Briggs died eighteen years since, and Messrs. Moakler, Fuller and Bartlett more recently. Others of the Associates came in later years, but not all.

The force-main of the Charlestown Water Works was laid through this territory, and over it one street, known by various names—Lawrence, Waterworks and Capen—intersected North, Quincy and Adams streets. Several others of shorter length were opened, and on all, houses were erected, some by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Stevens, the earliest comers.

Topographically considered, this section of the town was peculiar. The railroad bounded it on one side, Winthrop street and the lofty reservoir, then but eight years built and by some thought a menace, formed another, while the zig-zag boundary of old Charlestown extended from Winthrop street around it across the railroad to "Second beach," which is now only a memory. Between this crooked line and the winding river lay a portion of Somerville, partially marsh-land. On this were three

residents, Thomas Martin, William McCracken (better known as Billy Hamilton, "the wild Irishman") and Bernard Born, the engineer at the pumping station of the water works. Thus in a measure isolated, the Hillside people have always had a neighborhood feeling, and on several occasions local celebrations of public holidays, creditable both to promoters and participants.

Close under the shadow of the college the little (?) red schoolhouse found a place, as also did churches, which first met in private houses, later acquiring attractive houses of worship.

After forty years the unsightly and malarial Alewife brook, that made the outer Somerville boundary still more crooked, has been transformed into the Menotomy river. The Mystic and Powder House boulevards have been built, with Somerville field between. These are not a part of the Hillside but adjoin and affect it. It is an historic fact that the first Massachusetts governor, John Winthrop, got lost in the Charlestown woods that were on this hillside, and here spent a lonely night, waiting for daybreak. It is also said that Burgoyne's army from Saratoga cut off the trees from this same hillside during their winter stay in Medford as prisoners of war.

The establishment of the college and the building of the water works were notable events; but the steady development of the Hillside began in 1872, when the Quincy Associates came. All were worthy men and good citizens. One of the two families that were the first residents is now represented by the son and daughter of Mr. Stevens, who still reside in the house their father had erected on his hillside cow-pasture. Mr. Brown's picture shows the former, when a boy, driving the cows homeward on the old tow-path. We read today the written observation of a surveyor in 1862: "About half way up hill is a swamp about eight hundred feet long." Through this was laid the force-main of the water works. Mr. Stevens' house is just on its border. Built around it within six years are numerous houses. Across Capen





**WATERWORKS BRIDGE ACROSS THE MYSTIC  
AT JEROME STREET.**

One section of piling removed for passage of dredger.



**TEMPORARY DAM ACROSS THE MYSTIC AND NEW  
CHANNEL OF MENOTOMY RIVER.**

Courtesy of Medford Mercury.

street and between the eight hundred and seventy-seven feet of Medford-Somerville boundary line (bounds sixteen to seventeen) we recently counted thirty-one two-apartment houses erected since August last, and more begun, and this on the identical spot above noted. Truly "the fashion of this world changeth."

It is a far cry from those conditions and pasture land of those days to the conveniences of today, the present avenues, busy factories, trolley cars, numerous stores, churches, schools and club house, apartment houses and comfortable homes.

On the southern side the growing city of Somerville is building close up to Medford border and the Somerville appendix may soon become congested. It would be well if by some legislative surgery it might be operated upon, that the western end of our city might no longer be separated because nearly two centuries ago some Charlestown folk had a cow pasture beside the river and wished to retain it. This should be a part of Medford Hillside.

---

### MYSTIC RIVER MADE OVER.

Could some old observant Medfordite of seventy years ago pass over the river's entire course in a forty-foot motor-boat (as we did last summer), or along the Parkway in a swift automobile, he would note a marked change from the Mystic of his time.

How these changes have been wrought is worth noting in Medford history, even though it seem technical. With our knowledge of modern engineering difficulties, we have wondered how Labor-in-vain was cut off.

Our river is deeper now than before, though from Wear to Cradock bridge no tides ebb and flow in its less serpentine course, because of the dam at the latter site. But how many know of another dam that once lay across its course? In the work of deepening the channel below Usher bridge a dredge of the "orange-peel" type was

used. This was mounted upon a double scow and deposited the material on either bank. The season of 1908 was one of drought, and the natural flow of the river was insufficient to float the dredging apparatus when the tides were no more. To relieve the situation a temporary dam of earth was built just below the mouth of the tributary Menotomy, more commonly called Alewife brook. Some twenty feet of its overfall was made with sand bags that resisted the action of the water. This dam raised the river in its upper reach about eighteen inches, and served its purpose well for some weeks. When no longer needed it was removed, leaving no vestige thereof to tell of its existence.

The REGISTER herewith presents the visible proof of the above, looking from the Somerville side of the Mystic toward West Medford. A portion of the Mystic is seen undredged. Beyond this is the overflowing stream, while to the left is the higher earthwork portion of the dam. The water in the immediate foreground is the new Menotomy, not then cut through to the Mystic. Farther away to the left a wider excavation was made, and in this the Parkway bridge was built ere the water was allowed to flow in, an engineering process that materially saved expense, as but little pumping was required to keep the "hole in the ground" free from water during the time of construction.

It was just a few rods further up-stream that Thomas Broughton built his "corne and fulling mills in the River of Misticke" and constructed the first dam across the river in 1656. In dredging the river at this point the clay he used therefor two hundred and fifty years before was encountered and was with difficulty removed. From this point down stream to Cradock bridge the water was allowed to pass out at low tide, revealing what the eye of mortal had never seen before — the bottom of the river, across much of which one could walk with comparative ease. When the river was refilled it was by allowing the salt water to come in from below the

dam, and we were fortunate in securing a view of its inflow up-stream under Canal bridge.

These pictures prove what might otherwise be doubted in later years, and may well be of interest in the future.

M. W. M.

---

### AN OLD LANDMARK.

In the year 1769 Mr. John Bishop sold to Mr. Noah Floyd one acre of land on the south side of the road (High street), opposite the site of the Unitarian Church, with the proviso that no building should be erected on the same within three rods of the road without permission of the selectmen of Medford or their successors in office. Also a tenement or dwelling-house on the north side of the road occupied by William Tufts. This house stood upon the site of the Unitarian Church and was removed to its present location on the land above described to make way for the new third meeting-house, the land on which it stood having been selected by the town of Medford as a site for the new meeting-house. May 14, 1772, the selectmen of Medford gave liberty to Mr. Noah Floyd to build a shop on his land before the meeting-house.

A noticeable feature of this house is that the living rooms are at the northern side, this being caused by the removal and reversed frontage in its new location. This house has been known in recent years as the "Magoun cottage," and was damaged by fire in March, 1915. The shop has long since disappeared, and a portion of the land is now occupied by the street, the use of which for street purposes was probably anticipated by Mr. Bishop when he conveyed to Mr. Floyd, although it was over one hundred years before it became a portion of High street.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

### AN UNSHADED RIVER.

"It seems strange to see a river with no trees on its banks." Such was the remark made by a visitor while looking at our Mystic and its nearby Parkway. "Well, there's a reason," we replied, "for till recently the river has been salt, because of the tidal flow from the ocean."

In the construction of the Parkway, along the marsh-land, provision was made at regular intervals for shade trees by excavating a "tree pit" some seven feet in diameter in the salt mud and filling the same with a suitable soil, in which trees (many of them oak) have been planted. But nature is doing something closer to the river's edge in a few—very few—instances. On the river bank, down stream from Canal bridge (Boston avenue), are two birches, now about twenty feet high, that have sprung up in the made land beside the Metropolitan sewer. These are close to the water's edge, and have sprung up since the exclusion of the tide-water. At the top of the bank are two elms that started earlier in the fill made by expressman A. W. Welch twenty years ago, and on which he erected his stable. This was his business quarters until taken over by the Park Commission. These trees are not in Medford however, but in Somerville, and within the Mystic river reservation, and their roots are above the former tidal flow at its highest.

Till recently we supposed these birches to be the only trees on the banks of the Mystic. We find, however, that there are two smaller ones just below the Metropolitan pipe bridge. But for an example of nature's work in recent years, look along Meeting-house brook, both below and above Winthrop street, and see the numerous birches there rapidly growing.

It is but six years since our opening remark was made by one unaccustomed to a treeless river bank, and as in future years conditions may well be different, we make note of this as worthy of record. It would be well if the ravages of the gypsy moth could be thus remedied on the rocky hill slopes about the source of Whitmore brook.



**ZIPPORAH SAWYER.**

1819-1916.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, December 18, 1916.]

Miss Sawyer was born in Bolton, Mass., August 31, 1819. Her ancestors were of that vigorous, self-reliant stock of New England who worked not only for the settlement and progress of their native towns, but were engaged as well in affairs that advanced their country. Miss Sawyer's grandfather, Benjamin Sawyer, served in the war of the Revolution. Her father, Dr. Levi Sawyer, was the physician of Bolton and of all the country around. He was a man of marked individuality, a quality our townswoman inherited to a high degree; she was Miss Sawyer on the street, in the church, in the committee room, Miss Sawyer and no one else.

Her earliest years were spent in her Bolton home, where, as time went on, she combined the duties of a farmer's daughter with those of a doctor's helper, for in those days of thrift and industry a profession was rarely separated from the work of the farm. As her mother died when Miss Sawyer was only four years old, she devoted much of her girlhood to the care of her two brothers, she being the oldest child of her family. It was with pride and sincere satisfaction that she spoke of having mothered her younger brother Rufus from his tenth year. Her friends and large number of acquaintances can testify to the wonderful unity of thought and feeling that existed between the brother and sister, a closeness and harmony that lasted through Mr. Sawyer's life. Her older brother, Sterling Konisky Sawyer, passed much of his life on the home farm in Bolton, where his children and grandchildren now live. From this early life it is easy to see whence Miss Sawyer's domesticity, industry and thriftiness sprang, qualities, alas! from which our new race and complicated ways of living are falling rapidly away.

Passing out of girlhood Miss Sawyer devoted herself to teaching. She graduated from the Bridgewater Normal

School, where her brother Rufus also received his professional education. She taught at first in the towns neighboring upon Bolton — Boylston, Northboro, Marlboro, as well as in Newburyport. Then, in July, 1857, she came to Medford.

Just at this point our enthusiasm for Miss Sawyer and her work is especially aroused, for there are few of our Medford citizens who realize how sincere and widely spreading her interest was, not only in the schools of her town and city, but in every smallest concern of Medford for the past fifty-nine years. It was an interest that did not flag, up to the very day of her death. She taught eighteen years, most of the time as an assistant to her brother Rufus, in the Everett Grammar School. She numbered many of our residents among her pupils, whose respect and gratitude bear ample testimony to her lasting influence. On resigning her position as teacher in 1875, she was elected a member of our school committee, the first woman, I am told, to be elected to that board. She remained in this position eighteen years, filling the difficult office of a general mediator between homes and schools. She was eminently just in her duties as school committee, and always strove for the good of the individual as well as for that of the town. She had great insight into whatever was practical. She served her town with unsparing zeal, and all for the general good.

After her retirement from the school board Miss Sawyer spent her years dispensing liberal hospitality in her home on Salem street. Here her brother Rufus died in 1896. Left alone in the home where for so many years brother and sister had lived as one life, Miss Sawyer bravely clung to the interests that had always been hers in the affairs of home, church, town and nation. Though so thrifty a New Englander that the pence were as important to her as the pound, so thrifty, indeed, that she amassed a goodly property, she was generous with her means and her benefactions were numerous. The Historical Society of Medford can testify to her liberality, so can the church of her choice in Medford, Bolton and

Northboro. Other organizations benefited by her gifts, the Teachers' Guild, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Bolton Library, the Unitarian Ministerial Fund, and probably other institutions.

In religious belief she was a Unitarian and was consecrated to the work of that church, interested in its charities, devoted to its literature, and particularly loyal to the First Parish of Medford.

Miss Sawyer died October 24, 1916. Her very long life of ninety-seven years, while not full of great events, was remarkable for its evenness, steadiness of purpose, calmness of judgment, lack of violent, impassioned activities that rend souls. Her interest in life never grew less. The last political situation discussed in the morning paper keenly aroused her, and a detailed account of the last library book brought to her was sure to be a part of her conversation with her callers. She loved the world she lived in, even though for the past few years she had to view it from the easy chair in the corner of her living room.

The Rev. Benjamin Bailey, her cousin, at the funeral services of our friend, tersely and beautifully expressed the leading trait of Miss Sawyer's character. "She was a searcher after truth." The facts of the case were what interested her. She was not given over to sentiment or emotion, but she stood on the solid ground of reason, justice, right. Not that she was unfeeling, oh, no! She might speak her mind plainly, but if she did it brusquely not a day passed before she set matters right in her neighbor's heart as well as in her own. Sensitive herself, she was sensitive to the feelings of others. Indeed, there was a kind of tenderness in her heart which extended from her care of human beings down to the animal kingdom.

We cannot pay Miss Sawyer the debt we owe her, but we can stop to consider what she has given to our past, we can be grateful for the influence she leaves upon her city and her friends. To many of us she seemed, as Lowell says, "The type of the true elder race."

ANNIE H. RYDER.

**FRANCIS A. WAIT.**

Passed out of this life, Francis A. Wait in his eighty-eighth year, on Tuesday, December 12th, 1916, at his home, 63 Ashland street. Here, on December 15th, a very stormy day, his funeral services were conducted by Rev. Louis C. Dethlefs, pastor of the Unitarian Church.

Mr. Wait had resided on Ashland street with his three sisters, Misses Susan M., Hetty F. and Sarah H. Wait, for some fifteen years. The family previously lived in a house on Main street, near Cradock bridge, the site of which was included in the takings of the Metropolitan Park Commission. This house was on the site of the Wait homestead, and was built to replace the one destroyed in the great fire of 1850. The burned house was the house in which Mr. Wait was born, July 28, 1829, the second son of Nathan W. and Susan (Smith) Wait.

His father and his grandfather were blacksmiths. His father's grandmother was Sarah Bradlee Fulton, and Mr. Wait was an attendant at the exercises of dedication of the monument placed in the Salem-street cemetery in her honor by the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

He received his education in the Medford public schools. When quite young he learned the trade of a blacksmith in his father's shop, and successively as apprentice, journeyman, foreman and master mechanic, was employed by the Boston and Maine railroad for a period of thirty-two years, in the locomotive department. Retiring therefrom he busied himself in "farming" about the home, and "always found something to do," as he himself said.

Mr. Wait's great-grandfather (on the maternal side), when five years old, witnessed the battle of Lexington, whose scenes were so distinctly impressed on the lad's mind as never to be forgotten. By inheritance (or otherwise) Mr. Wait possessed a remarkable memory and was quite an authority on Medford in the 50's. He furnished the material for several articles in the HISTORICAL REGISTER

under the caption "Reminiscences of Medford Fifty Years Ago." He was a Mason, a member of Henry Price Lodge since 1863, in religion a Unitarian, in politics an Independent.

By appointment, the writer of this article walked with Mr. Wait during the forenoon of a fine day in September last, up Forest street, by Bellevue, and Quarry road around Pine hill to the main highway, recalling the names of the families who forty years since occupied the houses by the way, paying special attention to the remaining evidences that quarrying stone was a considerable business eighty years ago, looking at the dignified profile of the "Old man of the Fells," viewing Wright's pond from the site of the old pumping station, and inspecting the station of the Metropolitan park police. Mr. Wait evidently enjoyed the woods walk and spoke with much satisfaction of the time when he owned a boat and made frequent trips on Mystic river both ways from Cradock bridge, and on Mystic lake.

He was well liked by both social and business acquaintances and had a pleasant salutation for each. As a member of the Medford Historical Society he was interested not alone in the REGISTER, but in its collections as well. He contributed some old Medford town reports, in one of which he took pleasure in showing me the amount of taxes paid by Ackerman & Philbrick (my grandfather and great-uncle), owners of one of the afore-mentioned quarries. He was also interested in our new home, visiting it several times a week to watch its construction and talk over the plans with the building committee.

The Society needs new members to fill the places left by such as he. Who, who will now take their places in our ranks?

H. N. A.

## A RECEIPT IN FULL.

But a short time before his passing away Mr. Francis Wait brought us two slips of unruled paper, yellow with age, but on which the ink is black and permanent, and legible as when written one hundred and thirty years ago. We reproduce their words as nearly as can be in type, wishing we might the excellent script of the writer.

Dr. Mr. Zakariah Sims to John Fullton.

1785

Aug 3	To 4 Gall <sup>o</sup> Rum & Sundries a 2/	£0.8 -
	To 1 Gallon Mollasses	" 1.9
	To 1 Mollasses Hoghead	" 5 -
	To ½ Barrell Rum 15½ Gall <sup>o</sup> a 1/6	1.3.3
	To 10 Gall <sup>o</sup> do a 2/	1 —
		<hr/> 2.18.0

By 1 load Salt-Hay —

This slip had been folded four ply to the size of  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and endorsed on the end.

Zakariah Sims

Acct —

1785 —

Both parties were Medford men; the first was great grandson of Reverend Zechariah, the first minister of Charlestown to whom a grant of land was made, which later became a part of Medford. By inheritance a portion remains in the family name today in what used to be called Upper Medford, the Symmes Corner of present Winchester. This Zakariah was a farmer, and even yet his descendants till the soil in a more intensive way. John Fulton, it seems, doubled the / in his name—it is supposed that he knew how to spell his own, if he did not his customer's. But it was probably Zack, and phonetic spelling in those days.

He was the husband of Sarah Bradlee Fulton, for whom our local Chapter of the D. A. R. was named. We are informed that he was a distiller and "book-keeper at the distillery." The time of this bill is just after the close

of the Revolution and before the adoption of the Constitution, yet the same is in English money.

What the "Sundries" were does not appear, nor yet their value, as the amount carried out only equals the rum part of the charge. There also seems a disparity in the prices with ten gallons at two shillings and fifteen and one-half at "one and six," with the half barrel "thrown in." Perhaps the "Sundries" were also.

With molasses at "one and nine" and rum at "one and six" we are led to wonder wherein lay the profit of the rum manufacture. Mr. Brooks wrote "It was never a profitable branch of trade; and till 1830, it ruined many persons who entered it."

The load of salt-hay of which Mr. Fulton could not carry out the price, was a product of the lower Medford marshes, which Mr. Symmes, like others of upper Medford, owned.

These papers were found in Mr. Fulton's desk. How the account was settled does not appear, but a few years later these Medford men had a settlement, as appears by the following in the handwriting of Mr. Fulton and signed by Mr. Symmes.

Received Medford 3d Febr 1790 of John Fullton One pound & four Shillings in full, of all Accounts debts dues or Demands to the above date as Witness my hand

£1 " 4—

Zechariah Symmes

Still English money—and during the first administration of Washington, who visited Medford the previous year, and was doubtless seen by both these old Medford men.

---

#### ANOTHER ANNUAL APPEARANCE.

The present number of the REGISTER is issued from the new home of the society, 10 Governor's Avenue. Though it is not wholly completed, the Society has moved in and will gradually get settled in its housekeeping arrangements, and hopes to present a view of it to our readers on our next cover page. This will take the place of the old

familiar one, and a description of our new home will then be in order.

Already three meetings have been held in its assembly hall, and as its lighting system is not yet installed, kerosene and the more ancient candles have served for the time. We confess to a feeling of disappointment that our appeal to our membership and the public has not met with a more generous response, and that the final completion of the work is being thus delayed for want of funds.

It is our earnest desire that the building be completed without any mortgage debt resting upon it to hamper the work of the society in the future. To those who have generously and readily contributed to the building fund our most sincere thanks are due, and to those who have had only discouraging words to contribute—we ask, What are you doing to help? The places of those that have passed on should be filled by new workers and our membership doubled.

The subscription list of the REGISTER should be also doubled, and both objects can be attained by interested effort. The past year has been the best in the history of the REGISTER (save one of its earlier), and we hope to improve upon this during the current year.

Just here, we wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. C. H. Tinkham for the excellent photograph of the cornerstone laying (secured under difficulties), and of the American Engraving Co., who kindly furnished the half-tone cut of the same. By an oversight these acknowledgments were omitted in their proper place in our last issue. This mention is better late than never.

When settled in the new home, members and friends will have better opportunity than ever before to see what the REGISTER has been doing for the Society and for the preserving of Medford history during its nineteen years of publication.

This issue begins a new volume and is unavoidably late; but we hope our next will be nearer on time and prove of interest as current history.









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Vol. XX.]

[Nos. 2, 3.]

# HISTORICAL REGISTER



April, July, 1917

PUBLISHED BY THE  
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS



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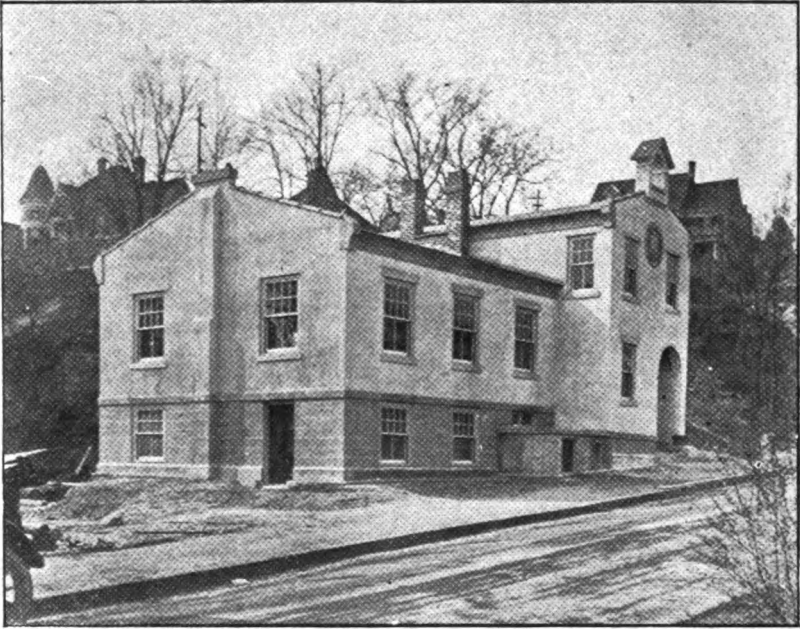
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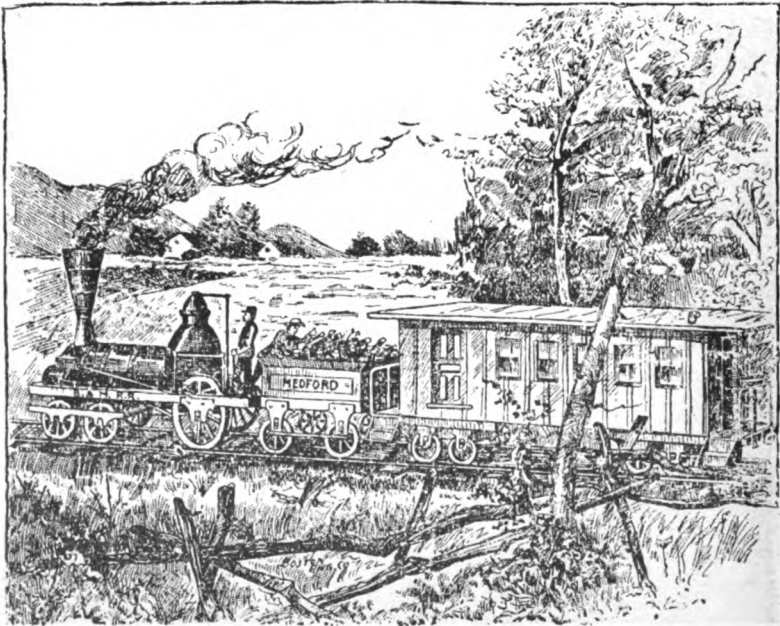
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(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_





MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S BUILDING.



AN EARLY MEDFORD BRANCH TRAIN.

# The Medford Historical Register.

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VOL. XX.

APRIL, JULY, 1917.

Nos. 2, 3.

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## THE MYSTIC WATER-WORKS.

**T**HESE water-works are those built a half century ago by the (then) city of Charlestown for its own supply, and located mainly within, and traversing the entire length of, Medford. The REGISTER has already described a portion and, as then intimated, now completes the story.

The Mystic lakes of today, with their surroundings, would have an unfamiliar look to Medford people of sixty years ago. There was then really but one, and that was known as Medford pond, though the "Narrows," or "Partings," did all nature could to make two of it.

The city of Charlestown, in its quest of a water supply, took it over, and then were begun, in 1862, the changes that resulted in the two lakes of the present time. At that time the shores of the pond were well wooded, and the white oaks there growing were utilized for the piles, that were driven fourteen feet and cut off level three feet below the surface of the ground. Upon these the masonry of the dam was built, while a double row of sheet piling was driven, within which the concrete core or backbone of the structure was filled, and back of this, the slope. Even the old Middlesex canal, discontinued ten years before, was laid under tribute, as the "puddle" of its old embankments near by, made up fifty years earlier, consisting of one-eighth clay mixed with sand and gravel, was used in this work. The granite for the overfall had been quarried at Chelmsford, as had been the stone for the canal's aqueducts. At this stage of the work labor troubles were evident, as one hundred and thirty men struck for twenty-five cents addition to the daily wage.

On June 2, 1863, Albert Whiting took charge of the masonry construction. His experience on the dry docks at Norfolk and Charlestown, and at Fort Independence, qualified him for this important work. On the tenth of June the northeast corner-stone of the dam was laid, but we find no record of any formal ceremony, other than the placing of a small vial containing the names of Charlestown's mayor, water commission, engineers and contractor in the lewis hole of the lower stone. In sealing the vial, a new cent of that year's coinage was embedded in the wax; not a heavy investment, rather an expression of old-time sentiment that still obtains at corner-stone layings. We hardly think any vandals will undertake to make away with *this* particular coin, as has been attempted in our own and neighboring cities.

The basal construction at this point was found difficult, as a centrifugal pump discharging four hundred and fifty gallons per minute failed to keep the excavation dry.

A year and a week elapsed ere the work was complete. The demand of the men in May, 1863, seems to have been acceded to, as we find that on April 9, 1864, another strike occurred, and that ten days later the men returned at the same wage as before, \$1.50 per day. On May 2, 1864, their pay was raised to \$1.65, and even this did not conciliate, for on June 1 another strike occurred. The laborers then got notice that the permanent men would get \$1.66 and the transients \$1.50 per day. The dam was finished on June 17, 1864, just eighty-nine years after Bunker hill day, and the pond began to fill. Water was not the only thing to rise, as we note that on July 1 the laborers' pay was increased to \$1.80 per day, and no strike is mentioned. These were the days of the Civil War, when the high cost of living was equally apparent with present-day experience.

At 11.30 A.M., September 30, 1864, the stop planks were put permanently into the dam and the water allowed to rise to the required elevation. This changed the entire



shore line, shape and extent of the upper lake, and as the water backed into the tributary Aberjona, the mouth of that stream (sometimes called Symmes' river) became fixed at the bridge below the Bacon mills. There was a water privilege that was rendered useless by the construction of the Mystic dam. The proprietors of course claimed damage and made show of resistance, but one day a keg of powder placed under the old structure wrecked it, and although a steam engine was placed in the mill, no work of account was thereafter done, and the buildings were gradually removed. Incidentally we note that, owing to the scarcity of cotton, caused by the Civil War, a substitute therefor, made from flax, and called "flax cotton" or "fibrilla," was being made or experimented with and machinery installed for that purpose. And so closed the history and usefulness of this old mill privilege, first established on the grant to Rev. Zechariah Symmes by his son William as a fulling mill. During that last winter the writer worked in the old mill with his father, who was present and witnessed the destruction of the dam by explosion of powder. Perhaps, at the present writing, the only living witness of the somewhat dramatic scene is Mr. Griffin, the old retired gate-tender at West Medford, better known as Faithful Mike. (This digression may, as a matter of history, be added to page 395 of Brooks' History of Medford.)

Today, extending from the parkway, there may be seen in excellent preservation the embankments of the canal, and at their end, beneath the water, the lower courses of the aqueduct masonry, a reminder of the canal's prosperous days. These mark the channel of the Aberjona as it was prior to the raising of the lake, but elsewhere the course is now a matter of conjecture, unless, indeed, old maps or plans may be in evidence.

More or less litigation resulted from the flowage, but this was nothing new, as witness case of Symmes *vs.* Dunster, Broughton and Collins in 1656 [REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 12], when the Mystic was first dammed. While this

work was in progress some information relative to the lower lake was obtained, which we quote:—

An experiment was made by Engineer Buchanan to ascertain the depth at which the water in the lower pond becomes salt. A copper wire coated with silver was suspended from a float anchored in 54 feet of water. The wire was allowed to remain in the water 24 hours, and was found to be *very* slightly discolored from 18 or 19 to 21.57 feet below. At 21.57 the corrosion increased for 4 feet, then very rapidly disappeared leaving it bright copper. This agrees with the report of Mr. Baldwin which was at 19.4 below the surface of the pond.

By the recent building of the Cradock dam the level of the lower lake has been reduced (and consequently its area, slightly), and as the tides no longer come, the water is no longer salted.

That the work of building this dam, with its waste weir, conduits and gate-house was substantially performed is evident even to the casual observer. Though disused since 1897 it is well cared for, and the new lake thus created is kept at the normal height.

Just here we digress a little from our subject, to quote from Mr. Brooks' History of 1855:—

The lands on each side are slightly elevated, and in future times will doubtless be filled with country seats.

Today sees something of fulfilment of his prophecy. Writing over sixty years ago he did not foresee the electric light or railway on the farther side, nor yet the broad parkway on the other, or the swift automobiles almost momentarily traversing its course. The present limits of its Medford border are only within a few years invaded by dwellings, but the "Baconville" of which he wrote, the "Upper Medford" of his earlier days, now styled Wedgemere, since 1850 a part of Winchester, more than fulfils his forecast by the beautiful residences there erected. Not a few of these have their motor-boat house on the water's edge, and near the Aberjona a lighthouse adds to the attractive view.

Along the Arlington side the street cars pass, and the

many passengers obtain at Morningside an unobstructed view across the lake in either direction. Here tasteful residences crown the heights above, and the vine-clad garages of "You-Say," and the sun-parlors and modern pergolas, add to an attractive section of Mystic street. Even now the lower slopes are being opened for residence, and "Interlaken" may become filled with "country seats." Not such as had just been erected at the time of Mr. Brooks (where is the stone windmill tower) for during the years Arlington has slowly grown toward the lower lake, and even now there is building a pleasure road there with a bridge across the tributary stream, Sucker brook, that probably will receive a less prosaic name.

We have thus mentioned the storage basin and vicinity of the Charlestown water-works. In a previous article we have told of the conduit that connected it with the pumping station. This last was in Somerville and was a structure of brick, later twice enlarged. At its erection it contained two duplex pumping engines and requisite boilers. At its rear, in the hill-slope, the coal bunkers were built and a miniature railroad track passed through an underground passage to the boiler room. The brick chimney was monumental in shape and finished in graceful lines at the top. In recent years, after its disuse, a small tree grew in the curved cornice from seeds brought by bird, or wind borne, but this has disappeared. A spring of excellent cool water used to be near the chimney's base. The square base was twenty feet high, capped with stone, and into this was built the iron smoke flue leading from the boilers. The tapering shaft with its angular buttresses rose to the height of one hundred feet, and the whole was tasteful in design.

Nature's force of gravity brought the Mystic water to this station. From this an iron force-main extended up the hill slope to a point midway the northeasterly side of the distributing reservoir on the hill-top. In November, 1862, three hundred and fifty men were employed, many of them in excavating for this main. Just above

North street a ledge of soft rock was struck. Meanwhile the work was progressing on the reservoir, which had been begun two months before, as appears by the following:—

On September 25 the first ground was informally broken. About 2.30 P.M. a plough opened the first furrow on Walnut hill. This was purely informal, but Mr. Grant, the division engineer, by the desire of the few present, guided the plough. Afterwards the site of the reservoir was ploughed around three times that day. The ground for the water-works was formally broken on Saturday, September 27, at the site of the reservoir. At 3 P.M. the members of the City Government and invited guests came upon the grounds. Mr. Edward Lawrence, chairman of the Water Commissioners, prefaced his remarks by asking a prayer of Rev. Mr. Miles and after a few words introduced the Mayor of the City, who after a short speech, received a spade and placed a sod in a wheelbarrow. Mr. Lawrence then made a speech and placed another sod in the wheelbarrow, after which Mr. James McDonald the contractor wheeled the sods away and placed them on the site of the embankment. The President of Aldermen, Chairman of Common Council, Chief engineer, six ex-Mayors, and others were introduced and spoke, each placing a sod in the wheelbarrow at conclusion of remarks.

Nothing is said in this record of Mr. Buchanan's about the wheeling away of these numerous sods, but in another column is the testimony of an eye-witness.

Mr. Lawrence invited those present to his home, where a collation was served, thus ending the formal beginning of the work.

Mr. McDonald sublet the construction of the embankment and reservoir to Charles Linehan. Engineer Buchanan made an interesting record of the manner of its construction and of the difficulties encountered. Springs were encountered near the westerly corner and for many years fed a watering trough beside the road beyond the Somerville line. A record was made of this fact of their existence prior to the construction of the reservoir, but even this did not allay a feeling of insecurity, and for many years little building of houses was done on the nearer hill slope.

The approximate width of the reservoir is 350 feet, with a length of 563 feet, and the embankment 19.4 feet wide at the top with a slope of 1.5 feet in 1 ft. A sufficiency of material being at hand it was made higher than originally intended. The water level is 162 feet above Boston base-line, and is 27.25 feet deep (plumb height). The induction chamber is in the northeast side, and a division wall across divides the reservoir into two chambers with drain wells at the northerly corners. Thus provision was made for the effectiveness of the works in case of accident or for repair.

At the easterly corner is the gate-house, from which the conducting mains extend down the hill slope and on to Charlestown. The first was of cast-iron and later one of sheet-iron with cement lining was laid when Charlestown began to supply its neighboring municipalities.

We recall reading in the daily print in after years, of a laborer in some excavation beneath a certain school-house, that had inadvertently been built above it, striking his pickaxe into this later main and of his surprise at the copious flow of water therefrom.

The artificial banks of the reservoir were stepped into interval spaces of from twenty to fifty feet, to avoid seepage, and inner slopes faced with rock and surmounted with a granite coping. The reservoir was completed in early November, 1864. At that time the neighboring buildings of Tufts college numbered but three. Beginning with the erection of West hall in 1871 their number has increased with the expansion of the college work, and gradually the hill slopes have been built upon until the suburban cities of Somerville and Medford have crowded closely upon the once distrusted earthwork that for a half century has proved its stability and faithful construction. From the promenade of over a third of a mile around its top a magnificent view of the surrounding country may be had and is well worth the time and effort of any one. It lies entirely within the bounds of Medford, though the angular line of the Somerville

boundary is very near, and within recent years closely built upon. We quote again from the record before alluded to: —

On November 5, 1864, the water had risen in the lake  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. On the same day the pumping engines were started slowly, at first pumping air only. A few leaks were discovered and the engines were stopped. On the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 P.M. they were again started and water was first pumped into the northerly division of the reservoir.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> the concreting of the southerly division was completed, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> the last stone of the coping was laid. On the 14<sup>th</sup> the engines pumped steadily all day from 10.15 A.M. On the 17<sup>th</sup> water was let into the feed main to test it; on the 22<sup>nd</sup> into some of the distribution pipes, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> the Commissioner and some 40 invited guests inspected the works. On November 29 the celebration of the introduction of water took place, consisting of a long procession through some of the principal streets, exercises at Winthrop square that were closed by letting the water on the fountain, and subsequently by a grand dinner at the City Hall.

The writer well remembers his first visit to the pumping station in June, 1870, and the walk over the decaying aqueduct of the canal, that still spanned the river. It was the show place of the vicinity, and a record book was kept for the visitors to sign. The two duplex pumping engines, resplendent in their polished steel and brass, were encased in equally polished walnut, and one was steadily at work day and night. Mr. Born and Mr. Hines arrived from Brooklyn on July 18, 1864, to erect them, and the former remained as engineer during the entire use of the works. He showed us about the station and explained the working of the plant, which a few years later was enlarged to double its earlier capacity and size. Still later it was again enlarged by building an extension of the engine room and the installation of a rotary engine and pump, also an electric lighting plant. This latter was something unknown but a few years before, when the works were built. We little thought then of seeing the plant abandoned and, disused, fall into decay.

Upon its taking over by the Metropolitan Water Commission (the city of Charlestown having been previously

annexed to Boston) and the water supply having become polluted by the factory drainage of Woburn and Winchester, its use for domestic service was at once abandoned. For a time it was kept in commission for emergency, but this was not for long. The engine last installed was taken to the works at Spot pond and the newer boilers removed. The others remained for some time, and within a few years have gone to the junk dealers, as also the three duplex pumps that used to have extra duty on Monday, when Charlestown, like other places, had that as washing day. At least thus we were told, and we recall that one shrewd observer said, "Why did not Charlestown take Sandy pond up in Lincoln and get good water and enough of it by gravity, instead of this eternal pumping." But he did not foresee the end that came in time rather than in eternity.

Not all the extensive construction is now useless, however. The reservoir on the hill is connected with Spot pond (which was raised several feet higher) and the water flows downward through the force main to the gate-house in West Medford, where an iron main (laid beside the brick conduit to Sherman street) conveys the water to Arlington. There, a mile up the valley of Sucker brook, is a pumping station that supplies the water tower at the heights for the high service.

The Mystic dam remains intact; indeed, if it were removed it is questionable if such would be a wise procedure. It has been suggested that an additional elevation be made, and thus the improvement of the Aberjona.\* The elevation proposed would raise the upper lake to 17.50 feet above Boston base, or fifteen inches higher than the tailrace of the next then existing water power on the Aberjona. The highest level the water commis-

* Mystic dam is	16.25
Flow of dam	6
Original level of Aberjona river	10.25
Feet above river	2
Symmes' meadow	12.25

Communication of A. E. Whitney.

sion could maintain is 16.25 feet, and is marked by a copper bolt in the Aberjona bridge. During more recent years that stream has been dredged and much improved by the town of Winchester, adding much to the attractiveness of the parkway. This was accomplished by the purchase of the ancient water privilege, and removal of all the factory buildings and dam. The elevation of the various ponds above is maintained by a new concrete dam of artistic design, while two fine bridges span the stream beside the parkway. These improvements have been effected without raising the Mystic dam or upper lake. A lock built at this dam would give access to motor boats as far as "Converse bridge" in the heart of Winchester. But it is doubtful if the Mystic supply is ever used again, certainly not until the picric acid and other deleterious matter from the chemical works, miles up stream, is eliminated. Mr. Brooks wrote of Medford pond:—

This beautiful sheet of water, though cousin-german to the sea, is as quiet and retired as if it never received a visit from the Atlantic waters. . . . Every twelve hours it is raised from two to six inches by the inflowing tide.

This variation is, of course, now eliminated, and the lower pond or lake remains at its normal level, regulated by the tide-gates in the Cradock dam. There is yet room on both sides for the erection of the desirable dwellings that in the growth of Arlington and West Medford are coming, and to the occupants of which, years hence, the foregoing account may be of interest.

MOSES W. MANN.

#### ON OLD WALNUT-TREE HILL.

In the fall of 1862, as I was taking a stroll about the town, I happened to be on that part of College hill now the site of the reservoir at the time of the arrival of a party of gentlemen who climbed the hill and gathered themselves around a wheelbarrow that stood there with



a shovel laid across it. I saw at once that something unusual was in progress. I was informed of its nature when one of the party, after making a few remarks concerning the object in view, thrust the shovel into the earth and broke ground for the construction of the reservoir to be used as a part of the water-supply system to be constructed by the city of Charlestown. After depositing his shovel of earth upon the barrow he passed the shovel to his next neighbor and it passed from hand to hand until all but one had made their little speeches and deposited their shovels of earth upon the barrow. The last gentleman then came forward and as he took hold of the barrow to wheel away the load said, "The city of Charlestown has a big job on its hands in providing for a water supply, but our Uncle Samuel has a bigger one on his hands in putting down this rebellion and I am going to help him." He wheeled the barrow a short distance and dumped the load.

He went to the front and never returned — was killed in his first engagement.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

#### A MEDFORD TOWN MEETING.

There are yet some in Medford who can vividly recall town events of sixty years ago, but there are few who have written the story. Mr. Brooks' history had then been published but two years, and he was resident in the town of his boyhood. His was one of the earliest town histories, and despite some inaccuracies was one of the best. Up to 1857 no one had the courage to start a weekly paper in Medford by which current events might be chronicled, but on January 8 of that year there appeared the first of the *Medford Journal*, "a paper devoted to news, literature, science and art."

Mention has already been made of this in the REGISTER, with a review of its initial number. During its all too brief existence occurred the annual town meeting, commonly styled the "March meeting." This was held on

the ninth day of the month (Monday, of course), and the *Journal* appeared on Thursday. The editor said:—

The business of the town was transacted with great unanimity and good feeling and despatched with great celerity, but with due regard to the important interests involved.

Thirty thousand dollars was to be raised by taxation, and twenty-five cents for each ratable poll appropriated for the support of the town library. The budget for that year was —

- \$5,000 for new schoolhouse, south side of river.
- 5,000 for road and bridge on South street.
- 8,000 for support of schools.
- 1,500 for support of poor and almshouse.
- 2,050 for fire department.
- 1,500 for salaries and fees.
- 2,000 for interest on town debt.
- 2,500 for highways, bridges and street lamps.
- 3,000 for miscellaneous and contingent expenses.
- 2,000 for outstanding and accruing demands.
- 325 for reservoir on Park street.

The balance in the treasury was \$16,551.17, and the town debt \$39,000.

There was then no town hall project on hand, but this town meeting was numerously attended, and the *Journal* editor gave the town clerk, Joseph Hall, credit for furnishing an "early and reliable report," and devoted two columns to remarks of his own relative to the proceedings.

Apparently the usual appropriations were readily made, and that for the new schoolhouse (still in service and known as the Cradock) only amended that it be built by a "mechanic resident in town." The growth of the South and Summer street section is indicated by the erection of this schoolhouse, as also by the "projected bridge to Somerville." This was the Winthrop bridge at the elbow of South street, and was "strongly opposed" by one speaker, but too late, as the same had already been contracted for. South street in those days was but sparsely settled between the river and Somerville, which latter was the western slope of Walnut hill, then begin-

ning to be called College hill. In recent years that portion of South street has become Winthrop street.

Indefinite postponement of action upon the "road from Medford to Edgeworth" (*i.e.*, Myrtle street) was averted by the taking up of another warrant article, and after an acrimonious discussion this road was deemed a public necessity and "carried with enthusiasm."

The town, by unanimous vote, increased the salaries of its clerk and treasurer to \$200 and \$150 respectively. The same citizen who had so vigorously opposed these roads and bridges also "made an ineffectual attempt to disallow the compensation heretofore allowed the School Committee."

Rev. Mr. Brooks sent a communication, which is thus noted: —

Resolved that the bridge on Main street be called the Cradock Bridge, and that the new bridge running from South street to High street be called Winthrop Bridge, in honor of early settlers. Carried.

A motion was carried to call the new bridge at West Medford the Usher bridge. This latter is that connecting Harvard avenue with River street in Arlington, then West Cambridge. We only wish that Editor Morgan had stated whether this action was in honor of an early settler and owner of the Royall house (Lieutenant-Governor Usher) or the more recently well-known citizen who was doubtless present at town meeting.

The next article was of special interest, for after several ballots, by a vote of 52 to 38, "the selectmen were instructed to enforce the law imposing a tax on dogs."

The selectmen were also directed to dispose of the old schoolhouse lot near the residence of Rev. Charles Brooks. This was up Woburn street (opposite where is now the Sarah Fuller home), and had been purchased when the first West Medford schoolhouse was built in 1829 (see REGISTER, Vol. VIII, p. 75). An amendment was suggested "that it be used for a pound." The account says "it was by the same gentleman who had dissented from or opposed several earlier matters," and that

"he sat down amid considerable laughter without completing his remarks. Mr. H.'s course generally excited considerable amusement, especially to the youthful portion of the audience, but which tended to alleviate the business of some of its dullness."

The motion that the school vacations be abridged to four weeks in each year shared the fate of previous ones after remarks by Schoolmaster Hathaway and others relative to "cramming children at our public schools."

At the time of this town meeting the town hall was in the glory of its renewed youth, having survived the damaging effect of two fires, and renewed and refitted for public service. A school of citizenship for the Medford boys was the old town meeting, and some of them learned well its lessons, in that old town hall, that contrast greatly and compare more than favorably with what is learned by the average youth of today. The New England town meeting, of which this Medford one of sixty years ago is a fair exponent, is both a school in, and example of, democracy that should not be hastily discarded for a delegated city government. It is a question in the minds of many today whether or not Medford people, with all the boasted progress of sixty years, are as well circumstanced or as happily situated as in those days "before the war."

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### "THE LITTLE REPUBLIC."

Sixty years ago a little book of two hundred and twenty-eight pages was published by a lady who soon after became, and for some years was, a resident of Medford, the preceptress of the famous Mystic Hall Seminary, Mrs. Eliza T. P. Smith. In her preface she says:—

Most of the articles in this little volume were kindly contributed by the respective writers expressly for this purpose, and these writers include some of the most distinguished in the land. . . . The editor has interspersed some trifles of her own, which she hopes may be leniently regarded. The volume is intended as an agreeable and instructive Miscellany, for presentation, free from

all sectarian prejudices, and such an one as may contribute to the moral and intellectual progress of Young America.

The title of the book is "The Little Republic — Original Articles by Various Hands," edited by Mrs. T. P. Smith, from the press of Wiley & Putnam, New York, and is dedicated, on a special page, to her father. The initial article is an ode of one hundred and twenty lines, entitled "Justice," by John Quincy Adams, former President of the United States. Mrs. Sigourney, Ex-Governor Briggs, Bayard Taylor, Elihu Burritt, and eminent clergymen (including Dr. S. F. Smith, author of "America"), are among the twenty-one contributors. The "trifles" mentioned number thirteen, the first being fifteen pages of prose on Self-Culture, and the last in verse, as follows:—

### MY FATHER.

BY ELIZA T. P. SMITH.

And I am conscious of affecting thoughts,  
And dear remembrances, whose presence soothes  
And elevates the mind.

*Wordsworth.*

My father! What remembrance dear  
Arises when that name I hear.  
Memory's voice brings back to me  
Childhood's moments full of glee,  
All its gambols, all its plays,  
All my father's kindly ways.  
Ah! it brings to me again  
Days of weariness or pain,  
When soft cradled in his arms,  
Gentle songs soothed all alarms.  
Those years, alas! how quickly flown —  
Those years, with love and blessings strewn.

Memory's voice it wakes again —  
That parental, tender strain;  
Love and precept, line on line  
Did my father's word combine —  
Yes, it was his lavish hand  
Ever placed at my command  
All that could adorn and bless,  
Knowledge, truth and happiness.  
Those halcyon days have passed away —  
But his counsels with me stay.

My father! yes I see him now,  
 With generous hand and sunny brow,  
 Making happy those around—  
 Soothing grief wherever found,  
 And though now my father's hair  
 Whiten'd is by age and care,  
 By his counsels I abide,  
 In his love I still confide,  
 O God, his life long to me spare,  
 And let me still his goodness share.

Another "trifle" was her "Echo Song," with introductory note—

On the shores of the Adriatic the women come down to the shore at nightfall and sing, then listen for a response from their husbands and friends on the water, that they may be guided home by the sound of their voice.

Her verses beginning

The curfew tells the closing day,  
 The last sun-rays have left the bay  
 And the shore;

imitate the women's song, the men's echo and the chorus, and are preceded by the music "Soft and slow, adapted by S. Hill," in which occurs twice *pp.* Echo.

The book is finely gotten up (in the style of its time) in red embossed cover, the central feature of each being a wreath-encircled lyre imposed upon a scroll, pen, and sprays of flowers, the front figures in gold. Each page is bordered with wavy ruled lines, and each of the articles begins with ornamental capitals and have head and tail pieces of intricate geometrical design. The author and editor was the daughter of Ebenezer Smith, and became the wife of Thomas P. Smith, who in 1852 erected the Mystic Hall building at West Medford, and whose death soon after was a loss to Medford.\* For her educative work in Medford, the reader is referred to REGISTER, Vol. XI, p. 49. In "Literary Medford," REGISTER, Vol. XV, p. 4, is a mention of the seminary and studies,

\* Mr. Smith contributed two articles, one "A Word to Mothers," to the book.

but the name of its preceptress does not there appear, nor direct mention of her as an author, nor is this book under consideration in Medford's Public Library, which has a special case for Medford authors. Well worthy of perusal in the present days, it is a recent accession to the library of the Medford Historical Society.

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### MEDFORD BRANCH RAILROAD.

Three years since, in Vol. XVII, p. 34, the REGISTER gave an account of the "Branch," quoting from various authentic sources, and venturing a prophecy which now seems likely of fulfilment.

With the impending possibility of discontinuance of passenger service, interest in the road is aroused, and it is difficult to answer all queries or to obtain *correct* information relative to its earlier days. The earliest of Medford's histories deals with it but briefly, only fourteen lines, but gives a view of the terminal station on Main street that is of interest. Thirty years later Usher's history devoted two pages to the subject. Of this but fourteen lines, mostly a reproduction of the former, are textual, the remainder being the report of James Hayward (who surveyed the route) and his *estimated* cost of the proposed work.

Both these histories give the names of the corporators and the date of the charter (March 7, 1845), and here all printed and published allusion to the Medford Branch Railroad *corporation* ceases, *i.e.*, so far as we have been able to ascertain.

In "Medford Past and Present" (Medford Publishing Co., 1905), Mortimer E. Wilber mentions the "Branch," quotes from Usher and gives the names of the (then) station agents, with date of appointment and their four likenesses in group. In the "Brief History of the Town and City" Mr. Hooper devotes but three lines to the Branch and two to the Boston and Lowell. In his letter prefacing the history he says, "The limited space allowed

has excluded much of interest," and this is certainly true. These are the sources to which we naturally look for information, with results as stated.

The facts are, the "Medford Branch Rail-Road Company" had but a brief existence, while the Branch railroad has been in public service over seventy years. The original corporators (as they were privileged by the charter to do) disposed of their charter and franchise to the Boston and Maine. We have before us a printed copy of the latter's petition to the county commissioners of Middlesex, which sets forth that fact, and also that it had undertaken to construct the "Branch," had filed location thereof according to law, and was desirous to proceed with construction forthwith. Then follow the names of the property owners along the line with whom question of land damage was unsettled, beginning with Luther Angier at Main street and ending with William Bradbury at the other end. The petition was signed by the president of the Boston and Maine, Thomas West.

On the first Tuesday in June, 1846, at their meeting at Concord, the commissioners ordered the petitioners to give notice to all these interested persons and corporations of its meeting for a view, and a hearing at the Medford Hotel on "10th of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, by serving each of the land owners named with a copy of this petition and order thereon, fourteen days before said view," etc.

The copy mentioned is endorsed as to Mrs. Eliza Perkins and is attested by the signature of "John T. White, Constable of Medford." In all there were forty or more. The only *corporation* we notice is the First Baptist Society in Malden.

We must accept this as "documentary evidence" that the Medford Branch Rail-Road *Company* had but brief existence, and that the Branch *railroad* was built by the Boston and Maine and always has been a part of its system. And now arises the query, Just when was it built and when did it begin operation of passenger service?



In the reports of railroads to the state, that of 1846, the Boston and Maine reports " $9\frac{85}{1000}$  miles of branch road of single track." Of this the Medford Branch is a little less than two miles (9,800 feet) according to Hayward's survey, and is probably included in this report. We base this conclusion upon the statements of the foregoing petition and the date of commissioners' view of location, as compared with the time of running the first trains. Who knows when that "eleven-ton engine, built at Lowell," with two cars first traversed the branch? Inquiry among the oldest residents of Medford has so far been unavailing. The "documentary evidence" available is this: up to and including March 1, 1847, the Boston and Maine Railroad advertisement in the *Boston Advertiser* announces *no* train service to Medford. In the issue of March 2 appears

Medford to Boston	$6\frac{1}{2}$ & 8 A.M.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ & 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.M.
Boston to Medford	$7\frac{1}{2}$ & 9 "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ & 5.50 "

The above we consider as conclusive evidence that the Medford Branch began operation on that day, and was obtained from the file of the *Boston Advertiser*. We found no mention of it in the news columns, though we did notice that on the Fitchburg railroad at Cambridge, on the previous day, the snow-ploughs were derailed and engines sent out from Boston to clear the track — a sidelight on the weather conditions of the time.

Of the cost of building the Medford Branch, and whether it tallied with Mr. Hayward's estimate, we have no means of knowing. The reports to the State are complete, and answer the law's requirements, but are for the entire system, and other than tabulated matter are very brief and deal mainly with the accidents that occurred.

We have seen in print the statement that its cost was \$38,208.60. This tallies with "Medford Past and Present," which in turn agrees with the total *estimate* given by Surveyor Hayward and quoted in detail by Usher

(see p. 73). Mr. Hayward's report consists first of an estimate of cost, *not including* "land or damage to real estate," \$25,082.50. At this point comes a matter of interest that is now forgotten, as neither history alludes to it. It was proposed to build the road on the *south* side of the river, and just here is a lesson in local geography with a touch of local history also, with a little of engineering thrown in. Fifty years before, this last had been shown in the survey and construction of the Middlesex canal along the Mystic marshes of Charlestown and Medford, but for the last ten of the fifty the competition of the Boston and Lowell Railroad had been disastrous to the water-way. The charter of the latter railroad allowed no other railroad into Lowell for forty years, but there was no hindrance toward Boston. The canal embankments could be used as a road-bed for the Medford Branch, and the cut through the ledgy shoulder of Winter hill in the corner of Medford and Charlestown was already made. The canal was but little used, and a proposition to discontinue it as a water-way, and by the laying of iron pipes along the ten miles of the southern end to Woburn utilize it as a water supply for Boston, had just been made. Mr. Hayward said:—

To the expense of building the branch, I have added that of building a second track on the Maine Extension Road,\* from the proposed junction with that road to the Middlesex canal, where the route proposed on the south side of the river would meet the Extension road. This I do, that we may have all the data for comparing the two routes proposed.

This expense (in five items) amounted to \$9,652.60, and, added to the estimate already given, total \$34,735.10, to which ten per cent. (\$3,473.50) was added for engineer, contingencies, etc., making \$38,208.60. As yet we have not ascertained the actual cost of the branch, as only the accounts of the Boston and Maine can give proof.

By this it appears that the recent "Interurban" project and even the defunct Mystic valley were not the first to

\* The railroad from Wilmington to Boston was then so styled.

consider a way paralleling the Medford turnpike. Mr. Hayward placed his report before "Messrs. Bishop, Lawrence and others," the incorporators of the railroad (Mr. Usher says a committee of citizens employed him), closing thus —

The distance to Boston by the northern route is thirty-two hundred feet greater than that by the southern route; and the southern branch will be forty-two hundred feet longer than the northern.

They decided for the shorter *branch*, all within the bounds of Medford, but the longer distance to Boston.

It was twenty years before the Wellington district began to increase materially in growth. To be sure, some ten years later, Editor Moody of the original *Medford Journal* suggested "a suspension bridge to the highlands of Somerville," but he was ahead of the times. Not until Middlesex avenue was opened, with its bridge across the Mystic, had that peninsular district a direct outlet to Boston, and even then its growth was slow.

In the second year of service, April 28, 1848, there were three accidents reported: —

April 28 James Gregg, having laid down between the rails on a curve near Medford, was run over by an engine and killed instantly.

May 5 Samuel Baldwin, in getting out of the cars at Medford after they had started, was struck by the baggage car and his arm was broken.

November 4 James Pratt, Medford, legs broken by collision at Medford Junction.

In 1853 Enos Ormsbee and Silas Bumpus of Charlestown, carpenters, walking on the track to Medford, were instantly killed by the 7½ A.M. northern train, the So. Reading train passing at the same time. [This must have been below the junction and not on the branch.]

And another, in which the Medford Branch figures: —

June 28, 1854, L. G. Brown killed at Causeway street [Boston]. He was driving with two others when his horse became unmanageable and dashed open the gate. Brown was struck by outward Medford train.

Doubtless there are those that remember that for some years locomotives were not allowed to cross Causeway and Traverse streets in Boston, and that the trains were

hailed by horses to the locomotives waiting just below Causeway street and also inwardly.

Another report throws a little light on the manner of operating the branch:—

January 3, 1854, Saugus and Medford train coming in at 2.20 P.M., Baggage Master Caleb Eames, Jr., of Saugus, killed near freight house owing to misplaced switch.

This record indicates that some Medford Branch trains were attached to other inward trains at Medford Junction and the combined train taken over the Main line to Boston by one engine. A similar arrangement obtained on other roads. Such would have left the Medford engine free to return with cars brought to the junction by another outward train, and better accommodated the time schedule.

Report of another accident was nearer home:—

September 4, 1857, Mrs. Dexter Loud of Abington was fatally injured at Park street station. It was not known whether she stepped from the car on to the track; her dress caught on the step of the engine and she was dragged under the wheels.

Doubtless further search of reports would reveal further accidents and fatalities, and we have only quoted those on the branch or in some way related thereto.

This branch railroad certainly was of great service to Medford in its earlier years, and had its first competitor in passenger service in the Medford and Charlestown Horse Railroad in 1860. This continued until 1873, but it is questionable if the long haul over Winter hill was very attractive to Medford people, other than the few who dwelt along its line, and even its operation attracted few new residents. This road was taken over by the Middlesex corporation and, after 1873, eleven years discontinued. Reopened in 1884, extended to West Medford and Malden, and soon after operated by electricity, it became a powerful competitor. Taking its patrons at their very doors and landing them at their places of business is an advantage the steam railway, with its fixed terminals cannot offer, even were it electrified. So the problem remains.

Of the engineer's estimate for depot buildings, the larger part went into the terminal station on Main street. Printed views show it in its various appearances to date, and incidentally some other changes near the square.

Near the other end of the branch one resident still remains that witnessed the building and opening of the branch — the oldest man in Medford, J. Everett Wellington. His name does not appear in the petition referred to, as his family *gave* the strip of land the railroad required. It crossed their orchard, and he tells us that on the Fourth of July, 1846, "we dug up and replanted ten sizable apple trees. Apples were already formed on them, but all the trees lived and bore fruit that year." Of the many trees in that orchard, over which numerous houses have been built, a few still remain, but have suffered for want of care in these later years. One of the conditions of land grant was that all Medford Branch trains should stop there. At first there was no station house, a signal was shown. After a while a little "shack" was provided for shelter, and later a station house erected.

We had a pleasant interview with him recently, sitting on the lawn and looking over the village grown up around his home. A whole history might and should be written of this corner of Medford called by his name and practically bounded landward by the Medford Branch Railroad.

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#### CREDITABLE TO MEDFORD.

On Patriots Day, fortunately aided in weather conditions, a modern Paul Revere rode over the historic route to Lexington as a part of Boston's patriotic observance of the day. For convenience' sake this ride was at mid-day instead of midnight, as was the original.

Invitations having been extended to the four cities and towns to co-operate, a committee therefor was appointed by Medford's mayor. His selection was Alderman Dowell of the city government, Superintendent Nickerson of the School Department, Comrade Oscar Allen of the Grand

Army, President Curtin of the Board of Trade, and the President of the Historical Society as chairman. This committee met with that of Boston, and later arranged a simple but effective program for the Medford portion, and to Comrade Allen, over eighty years young, and Superintendent Nickerson, who mustered his numerous forces, its success is mainly due.

James H. Phelan of the Boston Committee personated Revere and started from the patriot's house in Boston, instead of from "Charlestown shore," and at the top of Winter hill stopped for a brief time. There the Somerville exercises took place, in which former President Taft had a part. The rider was timed to come "over the bridge into Medford town" at 11.30 A.M. "by the village clock," and just as he galloped over, a bugler in the square gave sound of warning to the assembled crowd, which was in the thousands. His continental dress was in marked contrast to everything worn today, whether the modern khaki, Grand Army of the Republic uniform, school uniform or civilian dress, and was very noticeable.

High street was packed solid on either side, but the way was kept open by a squad of Medford's police. A detachment of cavalry attended him, and as he turned the corner into High street there arose a mighty shout and the singing of America. The Boy Scouts were out in troops from all over the city; the High School Battalion and a detachment of the Light Guard occupied places assigned them. The central point of interest was, of course, the Capt. Isaac Hall house, where, on either side of the flag-draped entrance, were assembled the veterans of 1861-65—the Grand Army men, the Women's Relief Corps and the other affiliated organizations, all bearing their respective colors. Massed on the opposite sidewalk, fully a thousand of them, were the school children, in charge of their teachers. Badges of red, white and blue, and flags everywhere were in evidence.

Arriving at the house, "Revere" was welcomed by His Honor the Mayor and the members of committee,

and invited to enter for refreshment. The present resident, Edward Gaffey, deemed it an honor to open the historic mansion for the occasion and dispense the hospitality Captain Hall had no time for so long ago. During this interval Arthur Joyce of the high school, standing on the door-steps, recited in a clear and carrying voice Longfellow's well-known poem; Mayor Haines, standing on the car-track, spoke of the lessons of the day, citing various historic events and incidents of American patriotism, and expressing the firm belief that America will not fail in the present crisis and in coming days. As the mayor ceased speaking Cornetist Milton Rich and Sub-master Gilkey led in the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," and the modern Revere mounted his horse and with his attendants started for Lexington. His Honor and the committee soon followed in the city automobile, the city messenger bearing the mace and the street commissioner at the steering wheel.

At Arlington a similar scene was enacted. That the event was a success goes without saying, nevertheless we quote from the Boston committee's letter, as written by its secretary:—

The Boston Committee were much impressed with the excellent manner in which the Medford arrangements were carried out. It seems to be the unanimous opinion of all those who followed the entire day's celebration through all cities and towns, that in Medford there was less confusion and better results than in any other place. The police seemed to have an intelligent conception of how to handle the situation. The exercises at the Capt. Hall house were carried out in a manner to indicate good foresight and equally good execution. The whole impression was, as I have stated, very complimentary to Mayor Haines, to Medford, to you and to your Committee.

The moving picture men were on hand along the entire route, and on a subsequent date the Medford committee witnessed the results of their work shown in Boston. The thought has been expressed, and very likely will take form, of something even better on another Patriots Day.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY REACHES MAJORITY IN ITS NEW HOME.

It was fitting that the Society's hearthstone should figure in the exercises of the April meeting just prior to Patriots Day. It is current history that troops of boys known as Scouts, and their sisters, the Camp Fire Girls, are taking up beautiful and instructive lessons in patriotism, loyalty and usefulness, that has a hopeful indication and outlook. Three of these camps, Sagamore, Mystic and Nahanadah, united under their guardians, Mesdames Kenny, Proctor and Snell, as the Sag-my-nah Council, were the guests of the evening.

Their entrance of the hall, their costumes and ceremonies, their salute to the flag and pledge of loyalty were of great interest. Surrounding the broad hearthstone they lit the Society's initial fire, that some members had been anxious before to do. We will quote here from Mrs. Fuller in the *Medford Messenger*:—

In accordance with the usual custom at all meetings of the Camp Fire Girls, the central symbol of the society was then demonstrated by kindling a fire by the Indian method of the rubbing stick. For the first time the flames of a matchless fire rolled brightly up the new fireplace, as the girls, seated on the floor in a semi-circle, chanted an ode to the Great Spirit, followed by the singing of "Burn, Fire, Burn," "Mammy Moon," and "Wo-he-lo," the latter portraying the keyword of the organization, "Work, health, love."

The President introduced the speaker of the evening, Rev. Anson Titus of Somerville, who spoke on "Present-Day Patriotism," contrasting the fires on the hill-tops and lanterns in the church tower, with the wireless and cable of today, and closing with—

These are great days in which to dedicate ourselves. The noble utterances of the President of the United States should grip and grasp every fibre of our being. A greater day is coming.

On May 21st the Historical Society held its regular meeting, the last of the season of 1916-17.

Its charter bears date of May 22, 1896, and the names of nine persons are therein written. Of these, seven are



still living and six were present at this meeting, which, considering proximity of date, took the form of an anniversary occasion, as in fact the Society has rounded out its minority years and is now of age.

Additional interest attached to the occasion as the exterior of the new home at 10 Governors avenue is now practically complete. Within a few days the scaffolding about it has been removed and the Society seal worked in the concrete is plainly in evidence thereon. None need ask the purpose or use of the structure, as "he who runs may read."

The seal of the Society consists of a shield and crest within a circle, on the border of which is the legend "Medford Historical Society." On the upper half of the shield is a sheaf of wheat, that being part of the arms of the Royall family. On the lower half is the seal of Medford—a ship on the stocks. The crest, a muzzled bear, is the crest of the Cradock family. In the exergue appears the motto, "Venerate the Historic."

Members began early to gather and to inspect the new home, which though not complete entirely as to its interior finishings, yet has a homelike look. The greetings and congratulations delayed the opening but five minutes past the hour, when the President rapped for order and welcomed the assembled members and friends, congratulating all upon the success of the former years.

A highly interesting record of the April meeting was read by the Secretary and duly approved. After some minor details, the various speakers were introduced. The first to respond was Charles H. Loomis, one of the incorporators of the Society and its first Treasurer, who said his "would be in lighter vein," and read the following verses:—

WE 'RE TWENTY-ONE.

Eighteen hundred ninety-six,  
A year we find not hard to fix,  
The M. H. S. that year begun,  
So now, of course, we 're twenty-one.

Well we recall those early days,  
Their memories bright cast pleasing rays,  
We bask in them as in the sun,  
We're glad because we're twenty-one.

Our leaders pass us in review,  
They're very choice because they're few.  
We really do not need to state  
The very first one gave us Wait.

We gathered headway in his term,  
Of active work we much did learn.  
"Banks of the Mystic" gave us zest  
To Hooper up when Wait chose rest.

And here we lay a memory flower,  
For one who labored every hour;  
Whose faithful interest would not down,  
We speak with love, the name of Brown.

And then a whirling Eddy came,  
He gave to us "Parada" fame.  
'Twas in his brain that we were born,  
And much good work by him was done.

In Medford's anniversary year  
Of nineteen five, it doth appear  
That Eddy's *views*, if you will look,  
And Hooper's *history*, make a book.

The M. H. S. bore well its part,  
Historic knowledge to impart,  
Upon its chosen work intent.  
Then later Scott was President.

How could events more fitting come,  
That when our years are twenty-one,  
Our list of officers we scan,  
And find for President a Mann.

A Mann in name, a man for work,  
A man who never learned to shirk.  
Whose tireless work today we praise,  
While grateful thanks to him we raise.

These corporate members' names were filed  
DeLong, and Wait, and Dame and Wild,  
Sargent, Loomis, Joyce and Gill,  
And Eddy, will the number fill.

The passing years their changes bring,  
And some have gone, their memories cling.  
'Tis but a step from earth to heaven,  
Tonight we write our number seven.

And for all those who from our ranks,  
Are resting on those farther banks,  
We weave tonight in memory's net  
Forget-me-nots and mignonette.

The past has many pictures fair,  
They crowd upon us everywhere,  
Stamped on the tablets of the heart,  
Of life itself they form a part.

Do you recall our old red home,  
Its open fire which bade us "Come,"  
Those Saturday nights of friendly chat,  
The chafing dish, and all of that?

And genial spirits who beguiled  
The passing hour with stories wild,  
And tales of travel, wit and joke  
Quite often wreathed in fragrant smoke?

Hail to the friends of every year!  
Their names unspoken bring us cheer.  
Did space permit the roll we'd call.  
Our greetings go to one and all.

And you, my comrades of today,  
As birthday greetings here we pay,  
Let every daughter, every son  
Rejoice because we're twenty-one.

C. H. L.

It is needless to say the above were heartily applauded. Will C. Eddy, now of Auburndale, a corporator and former President, and who first formulated the idea of an historical society in Medford, told of the earliest efforts, the developments of the work—incidents and occurrences, and paid tribute to the workers of the earlier days and the memory of those passed on.

As announced, the principal speaker of the evening was the Hon. William Cushing Wait, the first President

of the Society, his subject being, "What We Have Done for Medford in Twenty-one Years." Judge Wait told of the various lines of work and how the efforts of members had resulted in the clearing of some formerly accepted myths, by careful search and authentic record; of the writing of new and more accurate history and publication of the same; of the making of maps to illustrate the papers written by painstaking members; of the interest taken in the historic festival called "On the Banks of the Mystic," and its financial success; of the marking of historic sites and the initial work resulting in the city's observance of its two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, and the later publication of the "Proceedings" by a committee composed entirely of members of the Society, as was also the historian whose careful work is therein embodied; of the genealogical work, the acquisition of a library and collection with the later purchase of the old home at 2 Ashland street and finally the erection of the present structure. The address was interspersed with numerous incidents and references to interested workers, among them a worthy tribute to President Brown, whose enthusiastic work made possible many things. Listened to with the utmost interest and greatly appreciated and applauded in its close, was this address.

Because of another engagement which took him away, His Honor the Mayor could speak but briefly, but in encouraging and appreciative words.

Miss Helen Tilden Wild, one of the first Vice-presidents and former Editor of the HISTORICAL REGISTER, told of the Society's work in the gathering up and publication of Medford history and annals. This is now over two thousand pages, as the REGISTER is in its twentieth volume. She especially noted the amount of information to be found in the brief articles the Editors use for "filling," and how worthy of preservation. She also alluded to the work of her successors and did not forget "the man behind the gun," *i.e.*, the printer. At this point several members expressed their appreciation

of the REGISTER and made valuable suggestions. The present Editor told of his experience of the printer's helpfulness and also of the appreciative words of the editor of a great weekly, who styled the REGISTER submitted to him as "superb."

The chair then asked for the Society's appreciation of the printer's work, but found the vote was not wholly unanimous, as one man had not risen. Asking him to rise he was introduced as "the printer," J. C. Miller, Jr. Mr. Miller responded that he came to enjoy the occasion but found he was unexpectedly hearing good things about himself. He was gratified that the Society was satisfied with the appearance of the REGISTER, for he had tried to do good work on it. Everybody knows he has succeeded.

At this juncture Judge Wait wanted the floor again. This accorded him, he wished to add, "That the Society's existence and work had set forces in motion for the preservation of the Royall house." At the risk of contempt, the President regretted his recognition of His Honor, as he was about to speak of the same and to introduce Dr. Charles M. Green, president of the Royall House Association. This was then done and Dr. Green responded in felicitous remarks, alluding to the work of both organizations as important to our old city. Dr. Green is the author of the able paper, "Early Physicians of Medford," and also substantially interested in the new home of this Society.

Attention was called to the portraits of the late Miss Zipporah Sawyer and her brother, Rufus Sawyer, recently come into possession of the Society according to her wish. A letter from the attorneys of her estate was read by Judge Wait, presenting to the Society a bill of 1794 in the handwriting of Paul Revere of "One Silver Cann £8.3:2" to one — Whitman. This was Dr. Whitman of Bolton, Mass., with whom Miss Sawyer's father studied medicine and of whom he received his certificate as Doctor of Medicine and Surgery. Evidently Dr. Sawyer

recognized the interest that in after years would be taken in the autographs of the patriot Revere. The old paper, yellow with age, will be preserved in the Society's archives. Another item of interest was several old coal bills of "Pyam Cushing, Entrance to wharf on Ship street, near the Town Pump," to Mr. Sawyer. One reads

1867, July 29.

5 tons Furnace \$84  
putting in

\$42.50

1.50

After fifty years coal is the same price; but the town pump is no more.

During the two hours' session there was not a dull minute, and after adjournment the members and friends spent a half hour in inspection of the new home.

#### ANOTHER MEDFORD AUTHOR.

"Life on the Nile, and Excursions on Shore Between Cairo and Asouan, also A Tour in Syria and Palestine in 1866-67," is the title of a little book in our public library that was printed for private distribution. On a fly-leaf the following is written in ink: "To the Medford Public Library from Wm. Wilkins Warren, Boston, July, 1875." As the title is self explanatory, we leave the disclosure of its contents to the investigation of our readers, but of the writer we may with fitness speak briefly, as his work gives him a place in that department of our public library devoted to Medford authors. This term is used broadly, and includes their writings published before and after as well as while residing here.

Mr. Warren's New England origin is shown by his ordering in Marseilles, when procuring supplies for the Nile journey, such goods as "potted oysters, tomatoes, salmon, mincemeat for pies, all put up in America." Thus did this traveler of fifty years ago foreshadow the slogan of today. For the benefit of American tourists he gave the name of the only ship supply establishment where these goods could be purchased.

His parents were Isaac and Frances (Wilkins) Warren. The father was born in Arlington (old Menotomy), April 22, 1787, and the son in the same town, then West Cambridge, April 11, 1814. About 1820 the father went to New York and William was sent to the grandparents, who then lived on High street, in West Medford, where is now the street that was named for this family. He and two sisters were baptized in the First Parish meeting-house, June 18, 1820. He lived here about eight years, then went to work in a printing office in Boston.

He married at Billerica, Mass., Rebecca Bennett of that town, October 17, 1837. At that time he was living in West Cambridge, or was registered there. In 1830 he engaged in the West India trade, living in St. Thomas (one of the Danish islands recently acquired by the United States) until 1840, when he, with his wife, returned to their native land and resided in Boston.

Mr. Warren was successful in business and retired therefrom early. Both he and his wife possessed ample means and traveled extensively. He was of a genial disposition and drew around him a large circle of friends. He was philanthropic and his interests were far-reaching. He was a director in many organizations, and after his death his wife continued the benefactions and was a generous patron of many of Boston's well-known institutions.

They celebrated their golden wedding in a manner appropriate to their position and wealth at Hotel Bristol, Boston, October 17, 1887. The invitations bore the words, "No gifts desired"; the pleasure of friends meeting friends only was desired and was realized.

Among the guests were the following, with their wives, Ex-Gov. Alexander H. Rice, Hon. Thomas N. Hart, Chester Guild, Rev. E. A. Horton, Rev. M. J. Savage, Moses Kimball; the Misses Kimball; Rev. James Reed, and J. M. Rodocanachi, the Greek consul.

Poems written for the occasion by Rev. E. A. Horton, Rev. M. J. Savage, and Elijah B. Smith of West Medford were read. These, and others not read for want of

time, were printed in a beautiful souvenir volume containing an account of the occasion, with the names of the guests, fifty copies of which were printed for private distribution.

The fellow voyagers of twenty years before were there and a more remarkable fact was that the bridesmaid and groomsman of 1837 were present; the former, Mrs. Sarah W. Hart, a sister of Mr. Warren; the latter, Elijah B. Smith.

A valued keepsake in a Medford family is one of these little books, inscribed on a fly-leaf, "The Bride and Groom, 1837, To Mr. Elijah B. Smith, Xmas, 1887."

Mr. Warren died in Boston, January 23, 1890. A pamphlet published after his death testified to the esteem in which he was held. Words written by officers of churches, savings banks, the Washingtonian Home, Bostonian Society, directors of the public library of Billerica, corporation of the South End Industrial School, and others, formed a fine testimonial and gave proof of good stewardship.

Mrs. Warren died at Hotel Bristol, where she had lived for thirty-seven years, July 31, 1916, at the age of ninety-seven.

ELIZA M. GILL.

#### POEM.

BY ELIJAH B. SMITH.

Fifty years have rolled on, as the records will say,  
This month of October, this seventeenth day;  
And well is remembered a long morning ride  
In the "Old One Horse Shay," with no one beside,  
Well wrapped in a cloak, then the garment in vogue,  
That covered the faults of the saint or the rogue.  
A wish or a summons had come from a friend,  
That duty and pleasure induced to attend;  
As once was the custom in old Galilee,  
A wedding that day we were destined to see.  
The bride and the bridegroom, both youthful and fair,  
Were pledged to each other life's duties to share.  
The guests were assembled, the service was done,  
And two were pronounced to be merged into one.



The bride cake was broken; the marriage feast o'er,  
The pair left their home for a tropical shore.  
Successful and crowned with the blessings of health,  
Time brought to their coffers the comfort of wealth.  
No longer required were the labors for gain;  
They thought of New England and homeward they came.  
What since has befallen, no need to portray;  
Respected and honored we know them today.  
Though touched it may be by the finger of Time,  
The spring-time within them is still at its prime.  
The knot that was tied at a date that is old,  
Today is refastened and burnished with gold;  
And next when the future requires it again,  
The tie will be strengthened and decked with a gem.  
But few will sail over the ocean of life  
For full fifty years without trouble or strife;  
The breezes too often will end in a gale  
That founders the vessel or shatters the sail.  
Exceptions there are, that will sometimes appear;  
The bride and the bridegroom, behold, they are here.  
No signs of a skirmish are left to our sight,  
As each has been governed by duty and right.  
Their evening of life may be made to adorn  
And finish the duties neglected at morn.  
Far hence be the summons, and distant the day  
When one shall be called from the other away!  
We would not desire a decrepit old age  
Confined to a chair, like a bird to its cage;  
But while there are comforts in life to be sought,  
This wish we would utter, — may such be their lot!

---

#### EDITORIAL NOTE.

In 1883 a third edition of Mr. Warren's "Life on the Nile in a Dahabe'eh" was published. A copy of this, with illustrations, has just come into the Society's library by courtesy of his nephew, Henry W. Hart.

In 1884 Mr. Warren published his autobiography (forty-five pages), with the genealogies of affiliated families (Bennett, Schouler, Russel, Wilkins and others), the former containing interesting side-lights on Medford history.

On page 217, Brooks' History of Medford, is a view of his boyhood home when in Medford.

### **WHAT THE WOMEN OF MEDFORD ARE DOING IN THE PRESENT WAR CRISIS.**

As the events of today are making history, it is fitting that the REGISTER record the work of Medford women.

Four societies, distinctly patriotic in character, have worked along these lines many years. The oldest, S. C. Lawrence Relief Corps, was formed thirty-eight years ago, being the fifth in Massachusetts, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. While organized in the interest of those veterans and true allegiance to the United States, it is not strange that initiative steps in time of war should be taken by the local corps. During the Spanish American war, and in the later Mexican trouble, Grand Army hall was a busy center for work for Company E. In the present European war, preparedness work was again started in the same hall, several of the older members of the corps enjoying the distinction of having engaged in similar work in 1861, 1898 and 1916.

In co-operation with the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness two hundred comfort bags, one for every boy who enlists from Medford, have been made and filled with useful articles. Fourteen were sent to the enlisted boys from Wellington, being paid for by a benevolent individual from that section; twelve were called for, to supply those going from the high school; and the remainder are stored in the armory, ready for distribution, and more will be furnished if needed.

Hand-in-hand in the same work, ever remembering the unselfish life of their namesake, and ready not only to emulate the deeds of their fathers, but to aid others in the service of our country, is Sarah E. Fuller, Tent 22, Daughters of Veterans.

With equal loyalty to the cause of liberty for which their sires fought in '76 are the Daughters of the American Revolution, named for Sarah Bradlee Fulton, whose name has come down in Medford annals as one of her loyal patriots. The Chapter, Mrs. Ellen L. Tisdale, Regent, is holding special meetings every Monday after-

noon in the slave quarters of the Royall house. Their special line of work is the bandages and fracture pillows called for by the local Surgical Dressings Committee in aid of the Allies.

Carolyn R. Lawrence Spanish War Veterans Auxiliary is of more recent formation. They too are doing their "bit" in commendable work for preparedness and service.

These four societies, through their efforts to inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country among the children by presenting flags to the schools and telling of Old Glory and the principles it represents, have unconsciously been giving first aid in patriotic valor to the "Boys in Olive Drab" who are now nobly responding to their country's call.

With the formation of the Medford Branch of the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness in April, representatives of the numerous local societies and churches joined their forces for co-operative work. Much interest is being manifested in its various activities. The membership in Medford has already reached over one thousand, which includes earnest, patriotic women and girls in all walks of life, each realizing the necessity of asking herself what she can do to assist in the present war crisis. Many have noted on cards the particular activity in which they have had training, and stand ready to serve when needed. Others are taking immediate steps in some line to make themselves proficient for service.

The officers of the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness are:—

President, Mrs. M. A. Atkins.

Vice-president, Mrs. Willard Dalrymple.

Secretary, Mrs. E. I. Langell.

Treasurer, Mrs. Charles H. Barnes.

And a Board of Directors.

Committee chairmen are:

Information—Mrs. A. P. Vialle.

Membership—Mrs. H. P. Van de Bogert.

Emergency — Mrs. Charles T. Daly.  
Ways and Means — Mrs. L. C. Boynton.  
Publicity — Mrs. George S. T. Fuller.  
Navy League Work — Miss Katharine H. Stone.  
Food Production and Conservation — Miss Laura P. Patten.  
Home Workers — Mrs. James Rogers.  
Work for Company E — Mrs. Herbert F. Staples.

Permanent headquarters were secured in the Medford building and an information bureau installed, with committee in daily attendance. A list of articles needed for the relief work in France, also patterns and samples, are there for the use of workers who apply.

Mrs. Daly, for the Emergency Committee, has secured the use of several halls, homes and autos, also beds and cots in preparation for any emergency call, and the promise of funds to buy dry food when needed.

The Woman's Navy League Auxiliary began its work the middle of March, but when the Special Aid Society was formed it became one of its committees. Its work has been largely in the line of knitting warm garments for the men of the naval reserve and coast patrol. Already nearly three hundred articles have been sent by the Medford knitters and the work is going on. The Hillside group have made a specialty of knitting for the navy. In addition to the sleeveless sweaters and mufflers sent to the boys at Marblehead, other articles have been supplied to the Naval hospital at Chelsea, the women of the Universalist church furnishing numerous helpful articles and hospital supplies.

With the imminent possibility of a food famine it has been no uncommon sight to see the women and girls of Medford with hoe in hand to help increase the number of gardens and the production of foods, while many lawns and flower-beds have been sacrificed that an extra amount of potatoes might be planted.

The Food Production and Conservation Committee has been alert. Miss Patten has given two courses of lectures and demonstrations on the canning of fruit and

vegetables, and will conduct a third course during the summer. Miss Lura Wakefield has given two lectures on "Meat Substitutes" and "Feeding the Family," also an evening course of five lectures on the "Cold Pack Process of Canning." Medford housewives and teachers alike have profited by these practical demonstrations.

The committee has also aided the school-garden work and offers prizes for canned fruits and vegetables to be exhibited at the fall show of the Horticultural Society.

It is of interest to note that since April the girls of the high school have completed a total of five hundred and ten separate hospital articles under the direction of their sewing teacher, Miss Miriam R. Woolley.

The Medford Teachers' Club has shown its interest by donating a sum of money to aid the work, raised from a successful military whist party given under the direction of Miss Amy W. Bradbury.

Wellington women are showing noticeable energy, Mrs. Joseph C. Smith, chairman. Mass meetings have been held, an entertainment to provide funds for their work, and a successful plan to increase the fund by weekly pledges, with Mrs. I. A. Ordway collector.

An interesting feature is a class of forty girls and about twenty boys who meet in the Wellington Club house for instruction in knitting caps, sweaters and wash-cloths for the French wounded, under the direction of Mrs. E. G. Goullau. Mrs. George Randall has been kept busy supplying the yarn through the Navy League Committee.

The Home Workers Committee supplies material to many unable to attend the meetings but who desire to lend a hand.

The Woman's Volunteer Aid Association (although short lived) did commendable work for the Light Guard at the Mexican border. To John D. Street, president of the Volunteer Aid Society is due its inception. Much enthusiasm was aroused with Mrs. Charles Holyoke president and an active board of directors.

Mrs. Willard Dalrymple had charge of a very successful concert given at the Medford theatre through the courtesy of Manager Hackett. Thirteen hundred tickets were sold and a goodly sum realized for relief work.

Mrs. B. F. Haines and her efficient committee were much appreciated in social service work.

The Surgical Dressings Committee is composed of

Mrs. George L. Bachelder, chairman.

Mrs. William B. Lawrence.

Mrs. George S. Hatch.

Miss Fannie B. Chandler, secretary.

Miss Ruth Carroll, treasurer.

Since starting its work in November, 1915, it has prepared 84,130 dressings, which were sent to the Peter Bent Brigham hospital for sterilization and then carefully packed and sent abroad to be used by all the allied nations. During the summer of 1916 the committee made 2,731 Red Cross dressings, which were stored in Boston for future use. These have since been forwarded for use among our wounded at the front.

Last but not least among the useful agencies is the Medford Branch of the Metropolitan Chapter of the American National Red Cross, organized April 23, 1917, at the Armory, with the following officers:—

Chairman, Mrs. Charles Holyoke.

Vice-chairman, Miss E. Josephine Wilcox.

Secretary, Miss Harriette McGill.

Treasurer, Sidney Gleason.

It started under favorable circumstances with four hundred Medford members who had been engaged in Red Cross work. Others rapidly became interested and now its membership is one thousand plus. Headquarters are established at the library annex on High street, in front of which floats the familiar badge of the original society, a red cross on a white ground, chosen out of compliment to the Swiss Republic, where the first convention was held in 1863, their colors, a white cross on

a red ground, being reversed. Attendants are on duty every afternoon, and much work is given out and the finished articles received by the Sewing Committee, Mrs. Lyman Sise, chairman. Some of the Red Cross groups already busily employed are:—

Woman's Christian League (W. M. Cong. Ch.), Mrs. W. E. Farr, chairman.

Tufts College Auxiliary, Mrs. A. H. Gilmer, chairman.

Woman's Alliance (Unitarian), Mrs. Charles Sawyer, chairman.

Sesame Club, Miss Miriam Clark, chairman.

Catholic Woman's Club (W. M.), Miss Kate Duane, chairman.

Watchful Circle (King's Daughters, S. M.), Mrs. C. L. Carpenter, chairman.

Sarah E. Fuller Circle (King's Daughters, S. M.), Mrs. G. S. T. Fuller, chairman.

Grace Guild (Episcopal), Mrs. Julia Hadley, chairman.

Mystic Congregational Church, Miss E. Josephine Wilcox, chairman.

Trinity M. E. Ch., (W. M.), Mrs. Herbert A. Weitz, chairman.

Union Congregational Church (S. M.), Mrs. Frederick Blandford, chairman.

Baptist Church (W. M.), Mrs. Jennie Lougee, chairman.

Hillside Universalist, Mrs. G. F. Harvender, chairman.

Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and many individuals are also engaged in the work. Since May 8 a total of 1,305 finished articles have been sent to the Red Cross rooms in Boston.

Mrs. Lincoln F. Sise has charge of the educational work. One class in first aid has finished the course and are prepared to receive their certificates. Other classes in first aid and home nursing are being formed.

Unlike the other organizations mentioned in this article, the Red Cross admits men to its membership, but the women's part in it is a large and important one. Following the recent proclamation of President Wilson, naming the week of June 18, 1917, as Red Cross Week to raise a fund, the women of the local branch were busy placing Red Cross boxes in the churches, stores and places of amusement, which received a generous response. One young lady conceived the idea of drafting her pet

dog "Cinnamon" into Red Cross service. Stationed in Medford square, the pockets on his attractive blanket marked with the Red Cross drew many dollars from cheerful givers while passing by.

The graduating class of the Lorin L. Dame school donated money which had been collected for their refreshments of ice-cream. A group of young tennis players arranged a tournament and from its proceeds turned \$10.00 into the fund. Many incidents of personal effort and self-sacrifice made to aid in the appeal to Medford for the Red Cross War Fund might be related.

Treasurer Herman L. Buss of the Campaign Committee reports for the Medford Branch \$4,516.30.

In telling the story of what the women of Medford are doing in the present war crisis it is safe to say that the half has not been told, for no doubt other local societies, community groups, church circles and individuals in the quiet of their homes are also worthy of record for a liberal share in the great struggle for a democracy embracing the freedom of the world.

ELLA J. PRESCOTT FULLER.

---

### A POSSIBILITY REALIZED.

Eight years ago this quotation appeared in the July REGISTER —

Flying chariots in fields of air  
with this observation : —

The realization to these I willingly leave to the people of the future. Terra firma is good enough for me. There are possibilities in airships and submarine boats, however. Perhaps the Historical Society, fifty years (or less) hence, may consider them.

It occurred that on the very day on which that July, 1909, REGISTER was issued the daily press told the story of Bleriot's flight over the English channel, thus early realizing the conquest of the air.



The "possibilities in submarine boats" have developed rapidly and their consideration forced upon the attention of the world. Twice the merchant under-sea boat *Deutschland* made the passage across the Atlantic to our shores, returning with valuable cargo, and awakening in thoughtful minds the query, "What next?" The answer was not long delayed. The ruthless use of the U-boats in the war by the Germans, and the torpedoing of unarmed vessels and without warning, has forced our nation into the World war, now three years in progress. And so it comes that we wait anxiously some new and opportune invention to overcome the deadly menace that in those few years ago seemed but a possibility. From whence shall it come, from air or sea?

---

#### MEDFORD LOCAL NAMES.

"Every town rejoices in some euphonious local names. Medford has Sodom, Ram-head, Labor-in-Vain, No Man's Friend, Hardscrabble." *Brooks' Historical Item, 1816.* Ram-head hill is the site of the Lawrence tower; Sodom, or "Sodom-yards," once the scene of brick making (West street), is now covered with dwellings; but Labor-in-Vain is as yet unoccupied, having always been a salt-marsh, but not always an island "in the river of Misticke."

---

#### AN OLD-TIME DEED.

Heirs of John Winthrop to Benanuel Bowers. About 4 acres of Marshland, Bounded, westerly by a line beginning at the mouth of a little creek and running from the said creek to a salt pond and from there to a stake down by the river side; and on all other sides by the Mistick river, together with a right of way through the farm to the highway.

Feb. 22, 1670.

Recorded in Book 8, Page 357, June 15, 1683.

This is Labor-in-Vain point as it was before the canal or highway was cut through, making the point an island

as it is at the present day. The little creek was that part of Two-penny brook through the salt marsh. The salt pond was in the line of the canal or highway.

J. H. H.

---

### TREASURE TROVE.

Rev. William Bently of Salem kept a diary for many years, making note of many interesting events and occurrences. Here is one that "seems like picking up money":

In removing a stone wall in Mystic or Medford in 1783, there were found under it a large collection of brass pieces, nearly square, mixed with the smallest coins of Europe, the whole  $\frac{1}{4}$  peck. A few round ones have a fleur-de-lis stamped on each side of them. The figures on the others were confused, but represented no character. The stone had lost all appearance of having ever been moved and there is no recollection of the currency of such pieces which appears to have been of use.

Dr. Bently made his record in 1787, as something unusual and of especial interest because of the circumstances and nature of the find. We wish he had told more.

---

### OF PRESENT INTEREST.

Our present issue is a double number, bringing the REGISTER up to date. Because of the Editor's construction cares of the new building, it has been deferred. In our frontispiece we present a view of our new home, this by courtesy of the Medford *Mercury*, which paper, and also the *Messenger*, have shown the same, with appreciative remarks. Another view will be found on the cover page design, including the flagstaff and Old Glory.

As we go to press we realize that war conditions prevail and a whole lot of Medford history is in the making. Medford responded in the Liberty Loan, the Red Cross Fund, on Registration Day, and just now is published the list of "selectmen" who may fill Medford's first quota in answer to the call to the colors. Company E is encamped on the armory grounds, awaiting orders, and all these things are but the beginning.

---

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Vol. XX.]

[No. 4.]

# HISTORICAL REGISTER



OCTOBER, 1917

PUBLISHED BY THE  
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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### FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in  
the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for  
the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_







CO. E ON MAIN STREET.



OLD GLORY IN THE ESCORT.

Courtesy of *Medford Mercury*.



# The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XX.

OCTOBER, 1917.

No. 4.

## NOTES EPISTOLARY AND HORTICULTURAL.

ELIZA M. GILL.

THE sources from which the facts were drawn for the statements herein embodied were the papers deposited by the late Horace D. Hall with the city clerk for safe keeping as the property of the Medford Historical Society, and the interleaved copy of Brooks' History of Medford, belonging to the late Caleb Swan.

The former is a collection of at least three hundred papers, comprising deeds, copies of wills, bills, accounts, memoranda, letters of a business or social matter covering a period of more than a hundred years, containing nothing of civic interest, but showing the business life of the Hall family for several generations.

The book, or second source, rich in manuscript notes and printed matter of historical and genealogical interest, was found among the effects of the late James Gilchrist Swan, a nephew of Caleb Swan, and was given to our Historical Society by a grandson of the former about twelve years ago. The first owner's notes run from 1855 to 1871. The second owner added to these notes in 1886 and 1888. Much of this data and matter from the Hall papers have been incorporated at various times in the papers of the REGISTER.

In 1793 The Revd. Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Wells came from England to Boston. He lived in the house afterwards of Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup> Hall in Medford near the bridge.

He sometimes preached for Dr. Osgood. He imported a number of apple trees from England for his farm he had bought in Brattleborough, but they came too late in the spring and he had them sold.

Mr. Benjamin Hall bought some, and he set them out in his garden, a little South of his Summer house. The trees are there now in Dr. Swan's garden.

The above is a portion of what Caleb Swan sent for confirmation to two well-known residents of Medford, desiring their opinion on the subject. We give the replies he received; then another note of Mr. Swan's, evidently a copy of his acknowledgment of their receipt.

The Rev. Wm. Wells left England for this country in the year 1793 or 4, disgusted with the civil and religious persecution of that time, which resulted in the riots of Birmingham and the mobbing of Dr. Priestly, a friend of Mr. Wells, who also came to this country. Mr. Wells brought with him a wife and eight children, five sons, Wm., Eben, Hancox, Alfred and Howard, and three daughters, Martha, Mary Ann and Hannah.

He thought that this new country afforded a better prospect for the eligible settlement of his numerous family, than the old world offered. He came here with letters of introduction to the Rev. Dr. Morse of Charlestown, and his family lived in this town Medford the first year after their arrival, while the father was exploring different parts of the country, with a view of obtaining a parish as well as a farm, both of which he found in Brattleborough, Vt. He often preached in Medford and formed a friendship not only with my father, but with many of the most respectable inhabitants of the town, which continued through life.

His son Hancox was for some years a clerk in the store of Mr. Jona. Porter, Medford, and afterward became a distinguished merchant in Hartford, Conn. Eben was a farmer and excellent citizen in Brattleborough. Wm. the oldest was first a bookseller, the eminent Firm of Wells & Lilly, Boston, and upon failing in business removed to Cambridge, where he kept a classical school of a high order and died a few years since in a good old age. His wife was daughter of Kirk Boott\* of Boston. Alfred and Howard the

\* Kirk Boott was an Englishman, an eminent merchant of Boston, who lived more than a hundred years ago in Bowdoin square. Part of his estate is now the site of the Revere House. He had a very fine garden and is said to have had the first orchids in New England. He had several children, Kirk, Francis, William, Mrs. William Wells, Mrs. Lyman, Mrs. Edward Brooks, John Wright Boott.

Francis was a physician and botanist of note who spent most of his time in England. His brother William was a botanist of local fame. The former, born in Boston, 1792, died in London, 1863. The latter, born in Boston, 1805, died there, 1887. He spent much time in summer in Medford studying its flora. He was accustomed to pass Sundays and Wednesday nights at the home of his relative Francis Brooks, whose father, Edward, oldest son of Peter Chardon Brooks, married Eliza Boott, 1821.

two youngest sons, died in comparatively early life. Martha the eldest daughter had received a superior education to her sisters, under the patronage of a wealthy aunt in England, to whom she soon returned after remaining a short time with her family here. She married Mr. Freme a rich merchant who lived near Liverpool and her house became the resort of American travellers. Having no children, she came back to this country after the decease of her husband, and as her father and mother were then dead and her two sisters had remained single women, she purchased the old family mansion, added to it and beautified it in every way, and made it a home for herself and sisters. She was the Lady Bountiful of the town, and enjoyed an old age of the highest respectability and comfort until the occurrence of the terrible catastrophe which destroyed her life. She was, however, the only victim of the conflagration in the year 1849, Sunday, May 20. The other members of the family barely escaped in their nightdresses. All the first generation are now in their graves but many descendants remain, who are, I believe without exception, distinguished for their goodness and intelligence.

I never heard the history of the apple trees before, but I make no doubt of its truth. Mrs. Wells was quoted for many years by the matrons here as a model of thrift and economy. She was greatly shocked at what she regarded as the wastefulness of our habits, in regard to food and other items of housekeeping.

Mr. Wells had been settled in a parish in England, by the name of Bloomingdale, I think. After the death of his wife, when he was past 70 years old, he revisited England, and went to his birthplace which he had left when only ten years old even the inscriptions on the tombstones, he said, had been obliterated by the humidity of the climate, and every thing was strange to him. These notices, my dear Sir, will I hope meet your wishes.

Truly yours, L. OSGOOD.

MR. SWAN — My Friend, I wish I could answer all the questions; but I cannot. William W. graduated at Har. College in 1796. James lived to old age in Hartford. Had one son and 3 daughters.

The son of old Mr. W. at Brattleboro' was a farmer on the homestead. Had a family. Three daughters lived at Brattleboro'. Two unmarried. One married Mr. Freme of Liverpool, and was burned in the house at Brattleboro', the only death by fire.

With respect and esteem

Yrs truly

CHAS<sup>S</sup> BROOKS.

C. Swan begs Miss Osgood to accept his thanks for her very

full account received last summer of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Wells formerly a resident of Medford.

The only wonder is that she ever came to the Knowledge of so many incidents connected with his history. It increased my regrets of which I have told Mr. Brooks that the History of Medford had not been written 30 years sooner when Governor Brooks and Doctor Osgood, and others could have furnished so many items of historic interest.

Thursday Dec. 15, 1864.

From the second source of material some letters came to hand that quite unexpectedly supplemented the accounts given by Miss Osgood of the Wells family. The first is addressed to Benjamin Hall, Esq., Medford, near Boston, dated Birmingham, Cheshire, July, 1781, and subscribed Eliza Worthington, late Loughes. She thanks him for having procured for her stock to the amount of \$1,144 in the Union Bank of Boston, and asks to have the amount, with interest, remitted to her, in care of her nephew, J. J. Hancox, who is with a firm of merchants in Liverpool which she names. She writes Mr. Hall she is enclosing her letter in one to her nephew, William Wells of Boston, and has been made happy that day by the receipt of a letter from America, and expresses the hope of seeing her niece, Martha Wells, in England in a short time. Mrs. Worthington was probably the rich aunt alluded to by Miss Osgood. The letter abounds in those dignified and gracious expressions of courtesy common to the letter writers of that time.

At the top of another large half sheet of heavy linen paper the following is written: —

DEAR SIR,

Inclosed I send you bank securities for fifteen hundred Dollars. You will please to transfer 143 script, or 1144 Dollars, to my sister Mrs. E. Loughes and send the remainder with those you have in your hand already, when convenience suits, to Brattleboro.

I left my family well last week, and intend to set off for Vermont again tomorrow. With respectful Comp<sup>ts</sup> to your family and friends I remain your obliged and humble Sev<sup>t</sup> Wm. Wells.

Hartford June 20 1797

To Mr. Benj<sup>a</sup> Hall, Sen<sup>r</sup>

Medford

near Boston.

In the center of this same half sheet, which we must notice if only for its very beautiful writing, like copper-plate, are eleven lines of writing unlike that at the top, and through the text four oblique lines in ink have been drawn. The writer speaks as having been informed by his father of a bill of £100, remitted through Mr. Hall to James Hancox of Birmingham, which he fears lost or delayed, as it had not been heard of so late as 4th April (no year given), and asks for information concerning it, and concludes by saying his brother and sister join him in "respects to you, Mrs. Hall, and the rest of our Medford friends." Subscribed James H. Wells.

There is another letter from William Wells to Benjamin Hall, Sr., dated Brattleboro, May 3, 1802, in which he thanks his friend for past business favors which he says have been conducted to his entire satisfaction, and that he has given his son William, in Boston, power of attorney to receive interest as it becomes due at the Union Bank, as he is not willing to longer trouble Mr. Hall with this trifling concern. He asks assistance for his son, in the way of advice, should he need it, and further says that in the affair of the interest of Mrs. Worthington's scrips it was a misapprehension of his altogether.

Probably the elder Wells sent the letter he had written to Mr. Hall to his son, who added the explanation which closed the transaction satisfactorily to all, and then forwarded the sheet to Mr. Hall.

A scrap of paper in the Hall collection contains a memoranda of trees bought in New York, and shows the purchase of three early Red Rareripes, three late Red Rareripes, two Beurre Colmars and two Bon Chrétien. The Rareripes were peaches of American origin, very highly esteemed, and were planted as follows; The early varieties, "one on the Bank, one by Dr. S[wan] fence near the grape vine, one by the cherry tree east." The late ones, "near the west side of the Barn, one in the alley near the grape vine."

The others were pear trees. The *Beurre Colmars* were planted on the east side of the garden and the *Bon Chrétien* on the north. The *Bon Chrétien* is the pear now found in all American gardens called Bartlett. It was originated in England, propagated by a London grower by the name of Williams, and sent out by him. Its original name was lost soon after imported here in 1799. It was propagated and disseminated by Enoch Bartlett of Dorchester. When the trees fruited they were supposed to be seedlings and were given the grower's name, Bartlett.

Mr. Manning of Salem, an eminent authority, felt that the fruit was identical with an English variety, and the statement he made at that time to that effect he was afterwards able to prove, but it was too late to restore the original name. Till 1830 all trees that had been propagated were from scions in Bartlett's garden, but after that time they were largely imported.

In the early part of the nineteenth century there were several nurserymen in New York who sent out catalogs. It is interesting to look over their catalogs, so different from the large illustrated ones of today, many of which have elegantly embossed covers and are works of art. The early ones were very simple in their makeup, there were no illustrations and some were merely a single sheet or broadside.

Prince's Nurseries, Flushing, Long Island, called the Linnean Botanic Gardens, were then well known. His catalogs give a list of imported trees, and also one of trees obtained from people in the United States, and as we find the Bartlett listed in the latter, from Boston, and the *Bon Chrétien* in the former, we may fairly assume Mr. Hall's trees were imported stock, quite likely obtained at Prince's. Probably the Bartlett pear found a home in Medford in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Though we have a local horticultural society established in 1913 (January 22), interest in the culture of

fruits and flowers in this city antedates it by many years. "Horticulture had a cordial reception in the early days of Medford, even back as far as the building of the house of Matthew Cradock."

The grounds of the Royall estate were known far and wide, and mention has been made in the REGISTER of fine gardens of a later date belonging to well-known families that were justly celebrated. Some exist today, and in many small gardens fine flowers and fruits have been grown for many years by those who have been unknown save locally, and yet have been deeply interested in gardening.

Medford has had honor conferred upon her by two well-known residents through their interest in horticulture. Captain Joshua T. Foster\* produced an excellent peach called Foster Seedling, and Charles Sumner Jacobs originated a fine apple named Jacobs Sweet. These fruits originated in Medford, were extensively grown at one time and were highly esteemed. Change is the fashion of the day, and they have been superseded by others, yet for real merit they were unsurpassed. The secretary of our State Agricultural Board writes me some nurserymen today carry the Foster peach, and that he knows of several persons who are still growing the Jacobs Sweet.†

The peach attracted great attention at the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and won many prizes, both for the originator and others who grew the trees. It was a very attractive looking fruit, and specimens were sold at a dollar each. More plates of this variety were exhibited than of any other, it is said,

\* For an account of Capt. J. T. Foster see Usher's History of Medford, page 487.

† The Massachusetts Horticultural Society offers this year (1917) a first and second prize for plates of twelve specimens of Jacobs Sweet at an exhibition to be held in conjunction with the American Pomological Society and the New England Fruit Show. Charles Sumner Jacobs lived at the junction of Salem and Washington streets, where Dr. J. C. D. Clark now lives. The estate was then larger and had a small garden. The tree was on the Washington street side near the fence line.

either because it was so popular, or because the season favored its growth.

This seedling peach tree came up about 1857 and the apple about 1860. The fruit of the latter is of good size, "yellow with a handsome red cheek."

At the time when these fruits were so prominently before the public Medford was also well represented at the exhibition of our State Horticultural Society by the following — Mrs. Caroline B. Chase, Mrs. Elsey Joyce, Mrs. Ellen M. Gill and Francis Theiler. The ladies were genuine lovers of flowers and enthusiastic and successful growers. Fifty years ago they were prize winners at the weekly exhibitions of the society and were known for their skillful arrangement of floral designs. The last, at an advanced age, is still \* enjoying the cultivation of flowers, and her zeal is undiminished. Mr. Theiler had the German love for flowers and was the first trade florist here, carrying on the business for many years.

Pasture hill indicates by its name the purpose for which it was early used, and until a late time herds of cows might have been seen grazing there. Today the prophecy is fulfilled made by Charles Brooks — "The hill is mostly rock, and will afford, in coming years, a most magnificent site for costly houses."

Statements made in the REGISTER, Vol. III, No. 2, p. 85, April, 1900, Vol. XV, No. 3, p. 65, October, 1912, and the account of the planting of fruit trees of which we have made mention, show the state of cultivation the south end of the hill was under at one time. The first change was made probably when the three Hall brothers built their houses just at the foot of this round hill that comes down so close to the road (High street). They had gardens which were spots of beauty for many years, and another Hall built his home there soon after, and these four houses, two now standing, were dignified and attractive dwellings for years.

When the first building for the high school was erected

\* At the time of writing this, May, 1914.



in 1845, a portion of the hill was cut away and reinforced with granite blocks, but it was many years before the great change was made that so materially altered the face of nature and changed the Hill pasture, as it is called in old deeds, into a residential section. Hillside avenue was laid out through the Magoun land, then came Governors avenue, with its branching avenues, a little to the east of the former, the time for the first being approximately 1880 and for the latter 1890. This caused the removal of the Benjamin Hall house, later known as Dr. Swan's house, and in 1906 the Richard Hall house was taken down and on its site the brick building for the use of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company was erected.

A later generation of Halls built their homes under the east slope of the hill, and in all five generations of this family made their homes at the base of the Hill pasture. The hill fell within the bounds of that large tract of land belonging to Jonathan Wade (*REGISTER*, Vol. VII, No. 3, p. 49, July, 1904), and the earliest paper in the Hall collection bears the date 1689 and is the division of the Wade estate. A portion was deeded to Andrew Hall in 1743, and later the whole came into the possession of this family.

Large holdings of land by a few fine old houses whose equipments spoke of all the comforts and elegancies known to early days, spacious grounds around them where each one lived the seclusion of the Englishman in his castle, told of the ancestry of Medford's early families and gave the aspect of old England to this New England village. With a but slowly increasing population this quiet rural atmosphere prevailed for many years.

Those who never knew Pasture hill in the old days have missed a charming picture, for as we see it today, crowned with houses, with a broad avenue laid out below, though a fine sight, it has no likeness to the hill of sixty years ago. There was a quietness and seclusion as you reached it by way of Brooks lane that was very attrac-

tive, and the old road at its foot that led through the woods to Stoneham was the place for a meditative stroll.

Let us close our literary ramble through an old book and a box of older papers with two gleanings, from the former a manuscript note, from the latter a newspaper clipping, as they touch topics of today's interest, though not horticultural.

George L. Stearns is an orator in Town meetings, and it is said speaks very well. He spoke at the meeting in the Unitarian Church Sunday, July 2, 1865 for the negroes to vote. He had been in the army with the rank of Major and was some time at Nashville, Tennessee.

The venerable Rev. Dr. Todd, of Pittsfield, says the root of the great error of our day is, that woman is to be made independent and self-supporting—precisely what she never can be, because God never designed she should be. Her support, her dignity, her beauty, her honor and happiness lie in her independence as wife, mother and daughter.

The above is dated in pencil, August 6, 1867.

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### NATHAN WAIT'S RIGHT OF WAY.

The history of the Middlesex canal has been so ably treated by two members of the Historical Society (see Vol. 1, p. 33, and Vol. 7, p. 1, also map of canal within the limits of Medford, Vol. I, p. 38) that it would seem as if the subject was nearly exhausted. But an agreement entered into by the proprietors of the canal by their agent, James F. Baldwin, and Nathan Wait of Medford, has recently been placed in my hands with a request that I should locate some of the places referred to in the said agreement. The agreement is as follows, viz.:—

Know all men by these presents. That the Proprietors of the Middlesex Canal by their Agent James F. Baldwin in consideration of a relinquishment by Nathan Wait of Medford of his right to a bridge across the Middlesex Canal in Medford, which was formerly a swing bridge, and stood near the house of Abraham Touro Esq. and also all right to pass and repass across and through said canal where said bridge stood, have granted and conveyed and do by

these presents grant and convey unto the said Nathan Wait, his heirs and assigns, a right to pass to and from his land through the said Proprietors land on the southerly side of said canal in Medford, from the passageway or lane (which leads southerly from the canal where said bridge stood) to the great road running from Medford Bridge over Winter Hill in the usual passage way from the great road to the Basin (through the landing or Basin lot so called) and from the Basin on the south side of the canal to the lane aforesaid. Also the privilege of taking gravel from the abutment of the old swing bridge to repair the passageway hereby conveyed in such manner as not to injure the bank or trunk of the canal. . . .

This agreement was dated July 15, 1820, and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds January 1, 1855. The first passageway or lane referred to in the above agreement is what was formerly known as Brick-yard lane, and it extended from South street, near the residence of Mr. Touro (which stood on what is now the corner of South street and Touro avenue and was demolished a few years ago, his house-lot being bounded easterly by Brick-yard lane), across the canal southerly into the brick yard. The lane existed prior to the laying out of the canal. That portion of the lane that extended from South street to the canal, or to Summer street, as now laid out, has been closed, and the portion south of the canal was known in recent years as Oak street until it was widened and renamed Brookings street. The clay lands were on each side of the lane, the greater portion being situated on the easterly side between Summer and George streets. These brick yards were formerly known as the Sodom yards,\* and are now mostly covered with houses. The swing bridge was the connection between the north and south portions of the lane after the construction of the canal and until the agreement before mentioned was signed. There is nothing to indicate the mechanism of this bridge. The canal was thirty feet in width, and the bridge must have been wide enough for the passage of a cart and long enough when weighted

\* In Vol. XX, p. 63, these yards were erroneously located on West street.

on the inshore end to counterbalance the portion that extended over the canal. I recollect the abutment of the bridge on the south side of the canal, but did not then know what its use had been.

The right to pass and repass through the canal land granted to Mr. Wait was on the south side of the canal over a passageway thirty-two rods in length and one and one-half rods in width from Brick-yard lane to the basin lot parallel to the canal. The location of the canal was laid out seven rods in width and the way was a part of the location. The basin was an enlargement of the canal for the storage of ship timber floated down from the back country for use in the ship-yards. Some of the timber was transported to the yards over land, and some was floated by the way of the branch canal to the river, and thence by the river to its several destinations. There was another way on the westerly side of the basin lot seventeen and one-half rods in length and one and one-half rods in width that connected with the way above mentioned, and a way thirty-four feet in width on the southerly side of the basin lot. This way was fifty-six rods in length and terminated at the great road (Main street) running from Medford bridge over Winter hill. Both of these ways were included in Mr. Wait's right of way.

The Cradock schoolhouse stands on the location of the basin. The annexed plan drawn from deeds shows the location of these several ways. Summer street, formerly Middlesex street, was laid out over the southerly portion of the canal location and did not include all the trunk or water course of the canal, and thus made possible the house-lots on the northerly side of the street.

It originally extended from Main street to Brick-yard lane, and when constructed the right of way of Mr. Wait's heirs and assigns became obsolete. In the summer season a party of Penobscot Indians used to camp on the basin lot and make and sell bows, arrows, and baskets, and occasionally a wandering party of gipsies would

camp there, trading horses and telling fortunes. The lot was also used as a burial place for deceased animals. It was, in fact, for many years a veritable no-man's land.

I wonder if any of my readers ever heard of the shipwreck that once was said to have occurred on the canal, possibly on the very section under consideration. I remember hearing of it when I was younger, it made considerable sport at the time. It was celebrated in verse, and was sung to a Medford audience by the clown of a circus that came to town. There were several verses, but I can recall only one, the rest were in a similar strain:

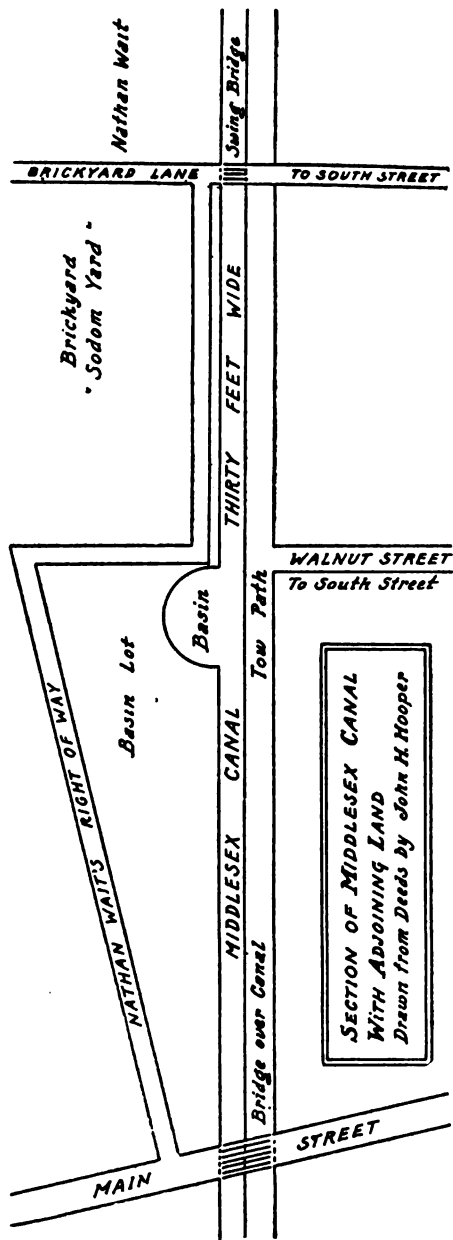
The chamber-maid she  
ran on deck

And loudly she did  
bawl,

"There goes my bed and  
bedding

In the Middlesex Ki-  
nawl."

JOHN H. HOOPER.



## BOTTLED HISTORY.

We read sometimes of bottled records cast up by the sea; here is one that sixteen years later came to light after no journeying, but once in peril of destruction by fire, addressed to the Medford Historical Society. The following is self-explanatory:—

September 9, 1917.

DEAR SIR:

I was shingling on a job in W. Medford; under a chimney flashing I found this letter which is enclosed. It was sealed in a bottle.

*The Finder*

Signed R. J. DUTRA  
27 Garrison Ave.  
W. Somerville  
Mass.

The "letter" the finder mentions was rolled in a separate paper, on which was written:—

Will the finder kindly send the enclosed paper and this wrapper (after reading) to the Medford Historical Society and oblige the writer.

[Name here.]

West Medford, May 25, 1901.

The street railway track in Boston Ave. was laid this week.

The above was visible through the glass of the bottle, attracting the finder's attention to the following enclosure:

This house (the two-story 32 ft. portion) was the L, or wing of the tavern belonging to the Middlesex canal, and formerly stood between the present Arlington and Tontine streets and fronting on the present Boston avenue.

The writer first made its acquaintance in May, 1870, when he made extensive repairs upon it; the first work he did in Medford. At that time there were but fifteen houses on this side the railroad, between High street and the river, and but two beyond the river on the slope of the hill. The course of the canal was plainly visible, and the ruins of the aqueduct over the river still remained, though the gates and timber of the lock had been removed.

The old tavern was removed from its former location in May, 1889, to its present sites. This portion is undoubtedly older than its larger main house, and sat upon a separate foundation of trench wall, but no cellar. Under the present kitchen was a well, some

of the curved bricks of which are in the base of the present chimney. It had a large fire-place, brick oven, and set boiler for laundry work. These were removed in 1870, and an ordinary chimney built in their place and under that in the second story. Before the removal of the house all the chimneys were taken down and the bricks used in rebuilding. The old chimney stood in the place where the patch of planed boards will be found. The shingles just now removed were of white cedar of fair quality and of the kind known in the market at that time as "shaved," *i.e.*, split from the wood and formed by hand with a draw-knife instead of being sawed. These were laid on the roof in 1870 in the month of June, thus making nearly thirty-one years of service. The shingles *they* replaced were of pine and made in the same way. The boards of the roof at the present show but three sets of nailing for shingles. It is safe to conclude that the original shingles lasted from forty to fifty years. In removing the shingles of 1870 at this time the workmen found one of those removed in 1870 in the cornice. It was much more worn by the weather during its service than its successor.

Near the present location of the house was a willow which was over four feet in diameter when removed in 1889 to make room for this and new buildings. The willow now in the adjoining lot is a sprout from its stump.

The Middlesex canal, which for fifty years was a waterway from the Charles to the Merrimac river, passed along the location of Boston avenue and was, at its construction, the greatest inland improvement of the country. Begun in the closing years of the eighteenth and opened in the early years of the nineteenth, we may contrast it with the means of travel and carriage of this present year of the new century, and wonder if the coming years will witness as much change, and as many improvements.

Just how old this house is we have no means of knowing, but it is probably much more than a century, and has not outlived its usefulness.

WEST MEDFORD, May 25, 1901. .

[Name here.]

At the meeting of the Society on September 24, the above was read by Mr. Weitz, who was Secretary at the time of the writing in 1901, and the papers are deposited in the Society's archives. The writer was then a new member and willing to "do his bit" toward the preservation of Medford history. Knowing something of the old house and its connection with the old waterway, he placed this account of it where it would be readily found at the

renewal of the roof covering. He scarcely expected ever to see it again, much less to receive it officially, or editorially to make note of the same.

In our reprint, the name of the writer is for obvious reasons omitted, but at its reading the President remarked, "It seems like 'chickens coming home to roost.'" There was some delay in the completion of the work in 1901, during which time the railway track was laid near by, and so mention was made of the fact and a new date "25" written above the original "13".

As a matter of present record it is well to state that this house is located at right of the end of Canal street, numbered 81 and 83, and the "larger main house" referred to now at the left and numbered 84. This house was undoubtedly built many years before the canal's inception, as its manner of construction is much different from that of the larger house built in 1802, and which was built directly against this one without removing any of its exterior boards or clapboarding. This was found to be the case on their removal from their old site in 1889. It might be an interesting antiquarian study to ascertain what old Medfordite built and first lived in it.

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#### A MEDFORD-MALDEN MOVIE.

Unlike the modern "movies" this was not a picture show, yet we of today would consider it spectacular, and were it filmed it would cover a stretch of about six miles. At its occurrence photography and even the daguerreotype was in its infancy. In 1843 the Baptist church in Malden built a new meeting-house on the present eligible site. The following year the old one was sold and moved from its location beside the cemetery on the Salem road, to South Woburn, which became Winchester in 1850. It was there used as "a leather shop of some kind." Some twenty years since Mr. Corey, the Malden historian visited Winchester and endeavored to locate



(but without success) the old building in which his mother had worshiped, and who told him of its being "drawn over to South Woburn with a large number of yokes of oxen." There had been two buildings in Winchester used as leather shops which would answer the description and had been demolished a few years before his visit. The probabilities are that it was the wooden portion of the Thompson shop, which stood nearly opposite the Winchester railroad station where is now Manchester field, rather than another on the road toward Montvale. Medford, by change in town lines, is now smaller, and the road the oxen and meeting-house traversed, shorter than in 1844. Building moving of that sort has, by the introduction of modern improvements, become a lost art, and in fact can only now be done in restricted areas and under close limitations. Could this moving picture be reproduced and show Salem and Pleasant streets and the square in Malden, and Salem and High streets and the square in Medford, and Upper Medford with its Purchase and Main streets, what a contrast to present conditions would be revealed. It would be a "moving scene" and "bring down the house."

Though the route through Medford was mainly level, yet at the last the oxen "brought down the [meeting] house" from the height of land in their journey, at present Winchester town line, over the slope of Black-horse hill in South Woburn. That oxen were used in the work indicates that it was loaded upon wheels and made more rapid transit than if by capstan, ropes and pulleys, with small rollers, such as are used with one horse as motive power. Still, it was quite a feat, and one rarely accomplished, and doubtless attracted much notice at the time, now seventy-three years ago.

Incidentally we note that recently (October 15) the Pacific Coast Borax Company's "twenty-mule team" passed up High street drawing a train of three big wagons and a tank as an advertising feature. There were but a quarter as many beasts of burden, and their

load took up but little of the road. With a hundred tinkling bells and their costumed outriders and drivers it was not as spectacular as must have been this old meeting-house moving over the same road, probably narrower then.

The Medford papers have noticed this latter event, but as a current incident the REGISTER preserves the following, copied from a Boston daily, which showed a view of

. . . the unique team (that fifty years ago used to haul borax from the mines in Death Valley) with its corps of attendants, including Borax Bill, Tarantula Pete (the orator of the team, who discoursed on borax mining, and gave a talk on the need of everybody who can buying a Liberty Bond), and Alkali Joe. The mules are directed by a "jerk line" 120 feet long, reaching from the head mule to the driver's seat. The wagons weighing 8000 pounds were used in the early days to haul borax from the mines to the railroads, 162 miles. In Death Valley the springs are 50 miles apart, so a 1200-gallon water tank was carried to supply water for men and animals. The present tour was organized to give the public an opportunity to view this novel historical spectacle.

---

#### SOME UNUSUAL MOVING SCENES IN MEDFORD.

We have in our "Medford Scrap Book" a picture of a moving event which occurred on February 18, 1908, when an irregular block of Milford granite was by a "horse battalion," carried from West Medford to Wildwood Cemetery in Winchester. It was something out of the usual course of events and worthy of permanent record in Medford annals. Brought by rail to Tutten's granite works, the inscription was there made in a somewhat unique manner by Medford artisans. The letters were deeply cut in the stone, broader at the back than at the surface and filled with lead; thus securely dovetailed in. Weather conditions precluded transportation on sleds as intended, and the season was advancing. So four thick oaken wheels three feet in diameter, on one axle with surmounting timbers, formed a stout truck on

which the eighteen ton block was loaded. This carried the load, while others of the usual type were forward, to which five pairs of horses were attached. Under skillful direction all went well until on the shorter and more level way of Playstead road, it began to sink into a place softened by the noonday sun. Four more horses were procured and the way retraced to High street.

Then the journey was resumed, up hill and around the corner of Woburn, Wyman and Winthrop streets, over the line into Winchester, and lastly by a tortuous and upgrade road reaching Wildwood at dusk, where it was later deposited at the burial lot of Samuel J. Elder, twelve horses doing the work.

Probably there are few living today, that saw a locomotive hauled from West Medford to Malden, through High and Salem streets, by horse-power in the early forties. Though of the ordinary type of those early railroad days, and small as compared with present ones, it was then a novel sight, perhaps never since repeated. It was one of the early Boston and Maine Railroad, came down from Wilmington on the Boston and Lowell track—and taken across town to work on the "B. & M. extension."

We are used to the slow moving steam rollers, but one day the big motor boat *Najocks*, built somewhere inland near Salem street, became stalled in its journey to the Mystic, and the friendly aid of Medford's steam roller enabled it to complete its overland trip. Doubtless others of smaller size have, like ducks, taken to water; but this was unique as to motive power.

One more, this mostly by water. At the time of the dismantling of the plant of the Steam Heating Company on Atlantic Avenue in Boston, the manager of the Chemical Works in the Somerville *appendix* on Boston Avenue, bought an iron tank some ten feet in diameter

and about as tall, and a Medford man who quite often tackled like unpromising jobs undertook its delivery there. An unobserved pipe hole being left unplugged, it sank when rolled into the dock. On being pumped out it floated, and "three men in a boat" started to tow it across the water front to the Mystic. It however tilted at such an angle as to take too much wind and they were glad to get a passing steam tug to "hook on to it," paying three dollars therefor. Once in the sheltered channel of the river they towed their big "tomato can" up stream and under various bridges (waiting some times for the tide to ebb a little) as far as the Mystic Water Works pumping station. There they rolled it ashore in the slack of two ropes, and then overland like a big barrel, to the Chemical Works alongside Medford line. It was there used till the discontinuance of the works. It was bought cheaply enough and the courageous mover more than earned his money, but he did the difficult job successfully.

---

#### ANOTHER MEDFORD MYTH.

The rum of Medford though no longer made bids fair to be everlasting — at least the memory of its production. A Vermont town history published only three years ago devotes some space to the building of the local meeting-house, and to the contract for the framing and raising of the same for "180 in wheat" at the current price; and closes with these words.

Ten gallons of rum to be allowed exclusive of above price.

It also records the "balancing of Zibe Tute on his head at the end of the ridgepole, swallowing the contents of his flask and descending head downwards to the ground."

Next follows the Medford myth we refer to.

NOTE.— Ten gallons of rum for building a meetinghouse in St. Johnsbury may be considered a modest allowance; for a similar job in Medford it took five barrels of rum, one barrel of good brown sugar, a case of lemons and two loaves of white sugar.

Medford we infer, could afford to be liberal with her own peculiar product.

While we have no doubt that the "peculiar product" was here used "to make the tackle run smoothly" on that occasion, we feel that the historian of that Vermont town owes it to Medford to furnish "documentary evidence" of the correctness of his statement.

In writing of the raising of the meeting-house in Medford (July 26 to 27, 1769) our historian says:

"there was no one hurt."

Our fathers did not put themselves into that condition that invites catastrophies.

and quotes from authentic record of *another town* (four years later) practically the above invoice, and adds,

A natural consequence followed—two-thirds of the frame fell: many were hurt, and some fatally.

We have searched in vain for authentic record to verify the Vermont historian's fling at old Medford, published by his town. We commend a *more careful* reading of our own historian's *comment*. Until thus verified, we must consider it another Medford myth.

Since the above was written we have received from the author alluded to the following:—

I could never have suspected that my quotation from the *Boston Transcript* would be construed to "reflect upon the good people of Medford." I was emphasizing the contrast between "the good old times" of that period, and the sober new times of today when distilleries are made into garages.

The above was accompanied by the more than column article, from which this rum, lemon and sugar quotation was taken. In that article, Beverly, Danvers, Dunstable, Medford, Northampton, Pittsfield and Windsor are alluded to under the title of "The Puritanic Present," and the writer thereof credited practically the whole to *Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular*. As the Vermont historian gives his quotation from the *Transcript* and not

from Mr. Brooks, we are led to infer that he may not have read the latter. But evidently some other had, and none too carefully, and as "her own peculiar product" was famous, Medford got all that was coming to her. We have in years past heard people in the cars of northern trains stopping at West Medford, at the conductor's call of "Medford—West Medford," remark, "This is where they make Medford rum, isn't it?"

But until it can be verified by credible evidence that such fatality as is named really occurred at the raising of Medford's meeting-house, we must consider the same, and *Wine and Spirit* inspiration of the *Transcript* article, as added to our list of Medford myths.

---

#### MEDFORD IN WAR TIME.

On Sunday afternoon, August 12, the Lawrence Light Guard was given a public farewell, prior to its departure for camp at Framingham, which was on Thursday. The various military and patriotic organizations, with the city government, employees and fire department turned out as escort over about seven miles of Medford streets, ending their march at Medford common, where the soldier boys were addressed by the mayor. The local papers have given full accounts of the same. To these for details we refer our readers. By courtesy of the *Mercury* our frontispiece is a timely illustration of this Medford event.

Our boys got safely over and are now "somewhere in France." Here's hoping they come safely back, but we know they will do duty well and help win the war.

The "select men" from Medford have also gone to the cantonment at Ayer and are in training. The people are responding to the calls for aid in the Red Cross, the Library Fund and recreation help. On the two Liberty Loans Medford did its duty well. Here and there, all about the city, the red service flag with its white center and one or more blue stars indicates that

from that Medford home some one has gone to the colors or is doing duty in the war service. The churches have Old Glory by the altar or "just below the cross," and their service flags displayed with impressive ceremonies. The Scouts are busy. Camp Fire Girls in one church gave its flag with twelve stars, singing "God bless, God keep our men," and older hearts were stirred as in '61 while the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung.

This is but one instance; there are others probably equally impressive and with more names recorded and honored, and we watch the daily news columns with a tense yet hopeful feeling.

---

#### OUR ADVERTISERS.

We wish to call attention to our advertising pages and to Medford and other tradesmen who can supply our readers. Our printer has displayed them clearly. That's *Miller*. He prints the REGISTER and will do your work in first-class shape.

*Irish* the optometrist will aid in reading, if your vision is defective, and with *Moore's* "Won't Leak" you can write a clean order or letter to anyone.

If *Drs. Richardson* or *O'Donnell* do your dentistry you will keep your health and be ready to plant a garden with *Burpee's Seeds that Grow*.

Your house will want good floors of *Miles' Finish*, and *Leavens'* furniture, colonial or modern.

The wool that the *Hallowell* firm sells is the real thing, and when made up will clothe you warmly, but your hats and gloves you can get of *Leahy*, and be ready to ride in one of *Teel's* autos. He has a fine display in that new store for you to select from. Some store, isn't it? *Hervey* has a new store, too, and always was the quality grocer.

*Curtis* specializes in "Old Royall House Coffee." Of course Medford people want that, and will use *Hampden Cream*, for sugar is scarce, though one advertiser is *Sugerman*. The ladies will be sweet on him, for he's a "Ladies' Tailor."

For your laundry work *Crystal Blue* is the real thing, if Sawyer's; but if you have it done out, *Tel. Rox. 283* for daily delivery.

*Page & Curtin* will sell you stoves (oil, gas or coal), do your plumbing, and no end of other things. *Dyer* will install your heater, but it will need coal to run it, and *Cowin* will have that for you.

*Volpe* has fruit of all kinds, vegetables ditto, first-class, too.

If you need medicines the *Smith Drug Store* and *Washington Square Pharmacy* have everything. Beside, there's *Bowers*, who adds kodaks, and will develop for you.

The *Medford Theatre* will furnish amusement, and *Fash* your ice cream afterward.

If you need storage facilities the *Boulevard Warehouse* has them, and the *Medford Trust Company* a strong-box for your valuables, including the Liberty Bonds you bought (or ought to have). It will be a pleasure to note the time by the new illuminated clock as you go in to make your deposit in the savings department that is paying good interest. Then there are the cathedral chimes every quarter hour that make Medford musical.

Don't forget *Miss Orne's* prize offer, nor the *Mayor's* compliments.

And if all these haven't (or have) enabled you to live happily, why then send for *Gaffey*, who will do his best for you, but we advise you to try and keep trying all the others. There are three others that can assist him, but we suggest you make a preliminary visit to them, they are good to get acquainted with. They are the *Medford Flower Store*, and *Rauskolb*, whose gold-leaf will give luster to your name on your monument, for the *Tuttens* can "put one over on you."

Don't forget to tell these friends where you saw their ad, also be sure to tell others about them and the goods they furnish. Nearly all are Medford people. Why not boost Medford, and help them do it too?



---

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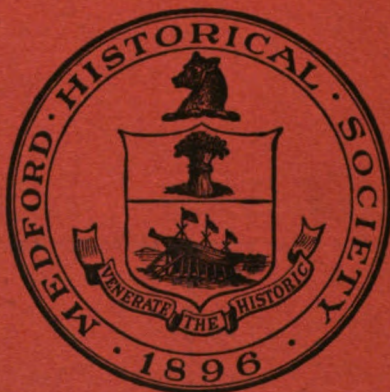
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**Medford, Mass.**





THE  
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**MEDFORD  
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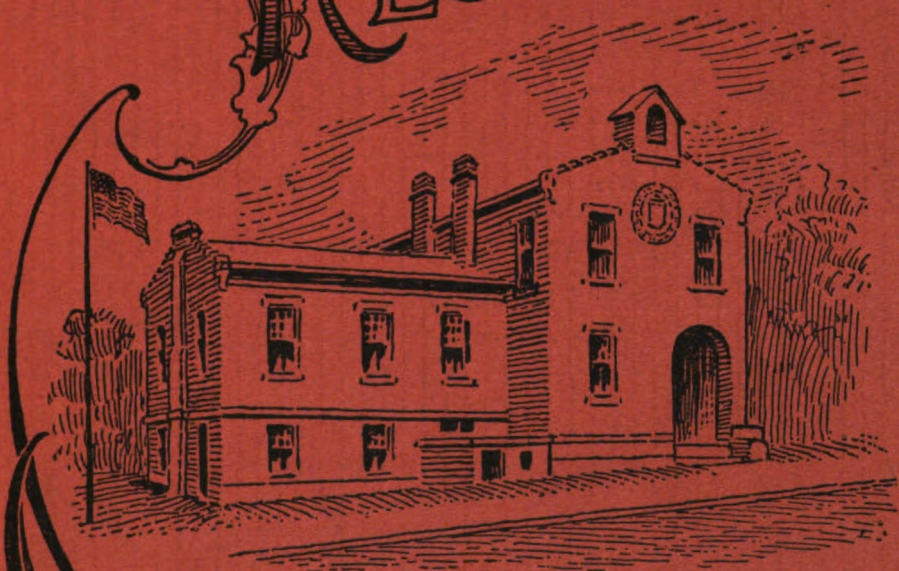
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JANUARY, 1919

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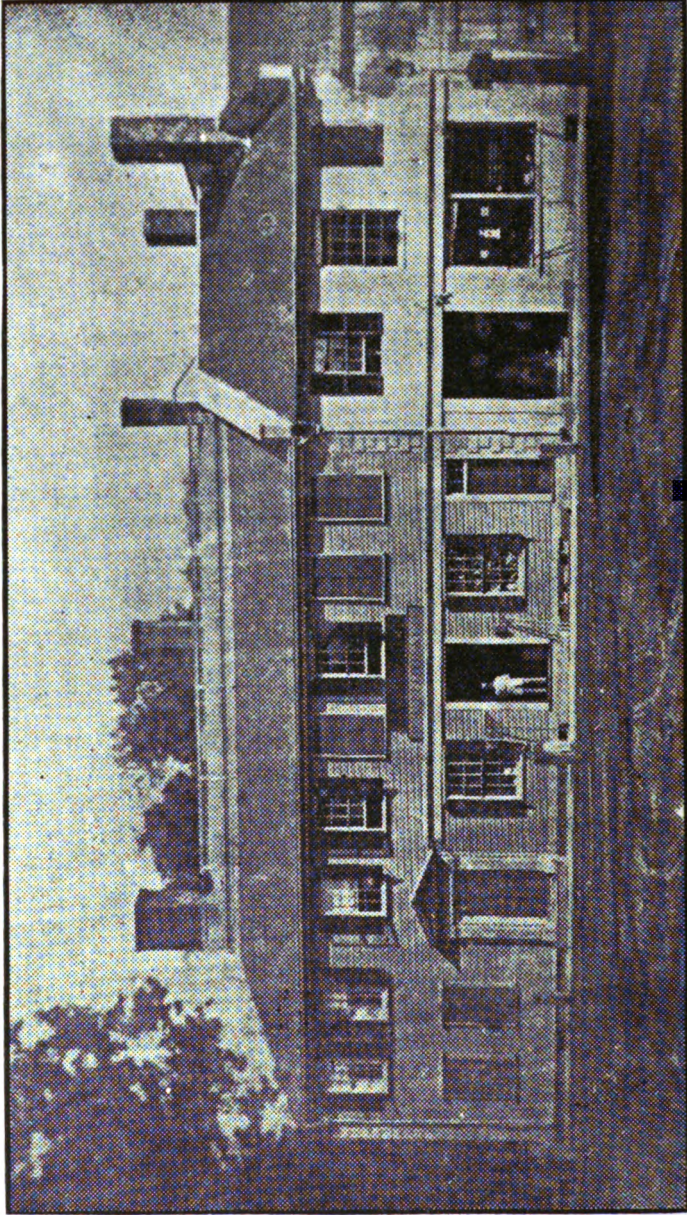
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I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_







**THE JONATHAN PORTER HOUSE, MEDFORD SQUARE.  
BUILT ON SITE OF ROYAL OAK TAVERN AT CLOSE OF REVOLUTION.**

# The Medford Historical Register.

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VOL. XXI.

OCTOBER, 1918.

No. 4.

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## A MEDFORD GARDEN AND THE GARDENER'S NOTES.

BY ELIZA M. GILL.

NOT a war garden of 1918, but one in peace times ninety years ago and more. This garden was on the estate, on the banks of the Mystic, owned by Timothy Bigelow. Martin Burrige was the gardener, in the employ of the Bigelow family many years.

The writer has at hand two note-books measuring three and three-quarters inches by six and one-quarter inches, with limp covers of marbled paper, one marked "Garden Book, 1827," kept by this old-time gardener. With these in lieu of "Open Sesame," the gate will swing back and give the readers of the REGISTER a glimpse of this old garden, let them see the fruits that were grown, the crops harvested. These books were neatly kept; the writing is plain, sometimes done with ink, again with pencil. They show Mr. Burrige as being careful, systematic, thorough, and interested in his work.

The entries of the garden book extend successively through the years to 1838, being necessarily few each year, but confined to such basic facts and information as would enable him to intelligently care for the greenhouse and garden in his charge. He noted the first and latest frosts, the temperature, time when seeds were sown and crops harvested, thus being able to compare the seasons, particularly those of sowing and harvesting, one year with another.

The following entries stand as they are in the original, for in these days of phonetic and simplified spelling there is no need of apology, and to make any change would take from the charm these pages written so many years

ago disclose to us, and surely one can but agree with the famous Southern statesman who declared a man was a fool who couldn't spell a word more than one way.

We shall find these fruits growing either under glass or in open culture — strawberries, peaches, lemons, oranges, nectarines, pears, quinces. The blossoming of the quinces was regularly noted each year without fail. The vegetables from his garden supplied Mr. Bigelow's table; his house was called "the seat of hospitality," and he himself was termed a hospitable neighbor.

January <sup>th</sup> 18 1827 at 7 o'clock A. M. Glass was down six degrees below zero.

Next morning the same

March 26 Saw the first swallow

March 27 Apricot & peach in blossom

April 11 Wall trees in full Blossom

April 12 planted the first Corn & potatoes & Summer Squashes

April 17 Took up the boards in the front yard & White washed the trees

May <sup>th</sup> 10 Planted the first Corn & Potatoes

May 15 Soed the Beets, Carrots, Parsnips & Onions. 15 Planted my Corn & potatoes

May 17 Quince tree in blossom

17 Peas in Blossom

June <sup>th</sup> 4 pickd the first Strawburrys

July the 1 had the first new potatoes

August <sup>th</sup> 4 Picked the first peach

August 23 Cactus Triangularius Blossom

October <sup>th</sup> 16 Got the plants into the Green House

October 17 had the first frost.

December 17 1827 Pickd. 18. Lemons witch weighed 18 lbs. 2 oz. Large weighed, 22. oz. Measured 17 inches one way 13, the other.

1828 Jan. <sup>th</sup> 16. pickd the first Jappan Rose

Jan. 22 Glass down to Zero at Sunrise

March <sup>th</sup> 9, Soed the first Peas & Reddishs

March <sup>th</sup> 17 Nobless Peach in Blossom

April <sup>th</sup> 1 Soed the Peas in the upper garden

April the 1 Soed the Seeds in the Hotbead

April <sup>th</sup> 7 The Multifloer Rose in Blossom

April the 20 the Cluster Rose in full blossom

May <sup>th</sup> 13 first pashion flower in blossom

May <sup>th</sup> 16 Sot out the annual Flower plants

June <sup>the</sup> 8 had the first pees  
 June <sup>the</sup> 8 had the first strawberries  
 June <sup>the</sup> 16 Got the plants out of the Green House  
 June <sup>th</sup> 30 Cut my Grass at the fountain house  
 August. 15 had the first Earley Ann Peach  
 October <sup>the</sup> 17 Sot out for Washington  
 January <sup>th</sup> 31, 1829 Japan Rose in blossom  
 April <sup>th</sup> 27 planted the Dwarf Imperial Pea  
 May <sup>th</sup> 22 first Passion flower in blossom  
 October, 22, Soed the field of Rye Soed one bushel of rye one  
 peck of Red top &  $\frac{1}{4}$  a peck of herds grass.  
 March <sup>th</sup> 26, 1830 highest tide that ever knoun  
 1831 March 28 Wall Peach in blossom  
 April 15 Grafted Some Cherry Stocks  
 December <sup>th</sup> 7 Picked Rose in blossom out a doors  
 October 27 1831 the Carpenters Finished the shingled of the  
 buildings &c  
 1832  
 August 20 Soed turnips in the field  
 Sept 14 1832 first frost Glass 32  
 August <sup>th</sup> 4 1834 Soed the buckwheat  
 Sept 29 1834 had the first frost in the Garden very heavy  
 May 21<sup>st</sup> 1836 Quince tree in Blossom  
 June 27 Planted Some Sweet Corn  
 May 31 1837 Quince tree in Blossom  
 List of Crisanithum for 1838  
 No I White  
 No II Yallow  
 No III Buff

These two are from the second book —

November 28, 1826 Mr. Bigelow Sot Sail for Giberalter  
 Nov. 5 1831 began to take care of Mrs. Grays horses in the  
 morning.

In this book were kept private accounts, money re-  
 ceived for his labor, generally paid by Andrew Bigelow,  
 and the sum paid for household expenses. One sees  
 what he paid for Andrew's hat, Henry's shoes, that he  
 paid Miss Wier for school for Eliza, \$3.67; for a testa-  
 ment, 50 cents; for pew rent to Mr. Floyd, the sexton,  
 and who appears to have followed many callings, \$2.00;  
 for a pair of mittens, 63 cents; a bible man, 87 cents.  
 The prices of staple goods are a surprise to us who know

at this time the high cost of living: tea, 58 cents per lb.; loam, 50 cents a load; molasses, 37 cents per gallon; cider, \$2.00 a barrell; apples, \$1.67 and \$1.25; corn, 55 cents per bushel; butter, 15 and 16 cents; chips, \$1.25 per load; goose, 33 cents; shoes, \$1.25; hats, \$1.00 and \$2.00; shad, 53 cents; pork, 8 and 10 cents; broom, 28 cents.

One learns who some of the townspeople were and the occupations they engaged in: Mr. Gleason sold hats, shoes; Mr. Cutter sold meat; Mr. Lock sold meat; Mr. Emerson sold meat; Mr. Symmes did iron work; Mr. Barker did papering; Mr. Stow did painting, glazing; Mr. Clough did hooping; Mr. Floyd carted chips and sold pigs; Captain Burr ridge sold hay, for which he received \$13.00, to Mr. F. Bigelow, for whom he often bought cider; he sold plants, Mrs. Gray, Miss Train and Mrs. P. Swan being among his customers.

How it did fret the soul of Margaret Tufts, who married Samuel Swan, that she was always called Mrs. Peggy Swan when her sisters-in-law were punctiliously called by their husbands' names. Mrs. Peggy had the name, however, of being a very handsome woman.

The gardener is said to have lived in a house on the Bigelow grounds. His expense account shows payments for rent quarterly, \$12.50 and \$10.00 respectively, to Captain Ward and Mr. Bucknam. He may, sometime, have lived in the Fountain house, for he owned the east half, and two and one-half acres of land on the Salem road extending to Fulton street that he cultivated as a farm. His second note-book frequently notes the planting of his own land and the pasturing of his cows. This opens up to us the rural aspect of Medford. Many residents enjoyed the luxury of keeping a cow. Mr. Burr ridge attended to the pasturing of Mr. Bigelow's, Mr. Stetson's (the minister), and Mr. Train's cows, having them sometimes in the Hall pasture, again in the Roach pasture, and on his own land. Captain Adams' man often worked for the gardener, who supplied him with

dinners and lunches, for which the captain was duly charged.

Mr. Burrigge joined the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on December 17, 1831, and he exhibited for his employer many fine fruits and vegetables, as the records of the society attest.

Sept. 19-21, 1838. "From Mrs. T. Bigelow of Medford. Apples—Monstrous Pippin, and beautiful specimens of Red apples from France. Peaches—Some fine specimens. Grapes—Fine Chasselas, and Black Hamburgh, Shaddocks, very large, from her greenhouse, (a variety of Citrus or Orange tree)."

Sept. 28, 1838 (?) "Seven years Pumpkin, from Mrs. Timothy Bigelow, Medford. (The above, the growth of last year, and shown at the annual exhibition of 1837.) Weight 46 lbs. in perfect condition, and it is said will remain sound for seven years."

Shaddocks were named for the sea captain who introduced them into this country and were formerly rare. Today they are the grape-fruit so commonly used at our tables.

This fact throws some light on the entry made December 17, 1827, for the size of the lemon seemed to be enormous, a tale worthy of Baron Munchausen. The citrus genus includes the orange, lemon, lime, and grape-fruit.

---

#### MEDFORD HORTICULTURISTS.

Medford has been in the vanguard many a time, and it is pleasant to know that when the Massachusetts Horticultural Society was formed, among the original (one hundred and thirty-eight) members who subscribed before the organization of the society, March 17, 1829, that the name of Samuel Train of this town is found. During the first fifty years of the society's life the following citizens enrolled in the membership:—

1829	Dr. Samuel Swan.	1830	John King.
1829	George Thompson.	1831	Capt. Martin Burrigge.
1830	Dudley Hall.	1834	Nathaniel H. Bishop.

1845	Edmund T. Hastings, Jr.	1865	William B. Whitcomb.
1845	Nathaniel Whiting.	1865	Ellen M. Gill (Mrs.)
1847	John H. Bacon.	1866	Mrs. Samuel Joyce.
1847	Robert Bacon.	1866	Edward Kakas.
1850	George E. Adams.	1866	Francis Thielier.
1851	Charles Hall.	1867	S. R. Roberts.
1855	S. B. Perry.	1868	Dr. H. H. Pillsbury.
1859	George L. Stearns.	1869	William C. Child.
1860	James Bean.	1869	James W. Tufts.
1863	Peter C. Hall.	1870	Japhet Sherman.
1864	Caroline B. Chase (Mrs.)	1871	George S. Buss.
1864	David W. Lothrop.	1872	Benj. F. Morrison.
1865	Francis Brooks.	1873	William H. Northey.
1865	Joshua T. Foster.	1873	Alonzo E. Tainter.
1865	J. Q. A. Griffin.	1873	Charles Garfield.

In 1841 Mrs. Lucy Bigelow, widow of Timothy, was made an honorary member, an honor shared, up to 1879, with five other women. Of the above only Mrs. Ellen M. Gill is now living (August 22, 1918). Enfeebled by age, her active work in the society has ceased. E. M. G.

#### AN EARLY TOURIST'S MEDFORD HOME.\*

In 1805 Timothy Bigelow, with a party of gentlemen, made a tour by stage to Niagara Falls. Starting from Boston, they passed over the usual routes of travel, returning by way of Montreal and Lake Champlain, thus enjoying the pleasure of travel by water. Mr. Bigelow left the party at Groton, where he then resided, and the others went on to Boston by stage. The trip took six weeks, and they traveled over thirteen hundred miles.

Mr. Bigelow kept a journal, noting each day's progress, the inns at which they stayed, the kind of accommodations offered guests, the conditions of the country, business situations, and the people met. Of scenery and the great natural curiosity which prompted the trip he wrote minutely. His manuscript, lost for many years, was found and compiled for publication by a grandson

\* For brief accounts of his distinguished family and fine place the reader is referred to articles in the REGISTER as follows: Vol. V, p. 49; Vol. VII, p. 29; Vol. VII, p. 65; Vol. XIII, p. 73 and p. 83.



in 1876. A copy of a "Journal of a Tour to Niagara Falls in the Year 1805 by Timothy Bigelow," is in our public library, but the one the writer was privileged to use bore the following inscription, in a free, manly handwriting:—

MARTIN BURRIDGE ESQ  
WITH THE KIND REGARDS OF  
ABBOTT LAWRENCE  
APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> 1877

The following, from the introduction, adds a little more to our knowledge of the man, and shows the taste, energy and genius that enabled him to create the most elegant estate, though not the largest, that has been in the center of Medford:—

He had strong rural tastes, and was active in establishing and conducting the Association of the Middlesex Husbandmen. He took great delight in horticulture, and may claim with others the merit of stimulating a taste which is associated no less with science than with pleasure. His grounds on the banks of the Mystic were famous for their beauty at that day, and long continued to be a conspicuous ornament of the town of Medford. While reading law in Worcester, in early manhood, the garden plot around the family homestead was embellished by him with such flowers and plants as could be obtained at that period. The same passion he naturally carried with him to Groton, and there, on taking possession of his house and farm, a well-chosen spot of ground was tastefully laid out, both for family uses and for pleasing and ornamental effects. His orchard, in connection with the garden, contained not only the common, but the rare varieties of fruit trees, making it altogether the best of the village and neighborhood. After his removal to Medford, in procuring trees he was fortunate in having the assistance of his friend and old-time client, the elder Theodore Lyman, whose tastes were similar to his own, and who often sent from his Waltham nurseries standard stock trees, with a man to plant them, and furnished him with the first espalier which covered his fruit wall.

Today the garden, now owned by Mrs. Mary Tufts, has something of the aspect the garden had years ago. The terraces are the same, the foundations of the greenhouse are the old ones used by Timothy Bigelow, the frames only being new, and the brick wall between the

Magoun estate on the east and the wall on the west by the land of Grace church are the same. This was the upper garden. The lot of Mrs. Prescott was an orchard, and for many years after her father purchased it a large greening apple tree yielded fine fruit. The garden of today, although a pleasant spot, does not show the elegance of the one a hundred years ago, for that was a wealth of shrubbery, plants and trees, and the greenhouse was filled with rare plants, and trees were trained on the brick walls.

The fame Timothy Bigelow had as an expert in raising fine fruits and vegetables was in part due to his able and faithful gardener, Martin Burrige.

Some of the following facts and dates have been stated in papers mentioned in previous REGISTERS. Timothy Bigelow died in 1821, his wife in 1852. A son and daughter, both unmarried, from that time lived hermit lives in the old home. They were eccentric, and lived in a wretched way, shutting themselves away from both stranger and friend. The place had a gloomy aspect, for the house was nearly surrounded by pine trees, and they filled the space from the street to house and had grown so large that the street was dark and so muddy that the neighbors rejoiced when they were cut down and sunlight flooded the space.

Miss Bigelow died in 1865, and her brother sought a home elsewhere. The story is current that among her effects were found seventeen bandboxes, each containing a bonnet and a veil. To clear the house of the accumulation of years was a great piece of work. A fine dress is said to have served some misses of the town many times for a fancy dress costume.

The townspeople were accustomed to speak of Mr. Bigelow as "Speaker Bigelow." The house was a two-story, broad wooden structure. A broad walk led from the front door to the street, meeting it in a deep curve.

In 1865 the estate was advertised for sale. It was divided into three lots. The middle one was purchased

in 1867 by Ellen Shepherd Brooks, who, on the site of the Bigelow house, erected Grace Church. The east lot was bought by the late James W. Tufts, who built his residence there. This comprised the upper and lower garden. The lower one extended in terraces to the river and was separated from the upper by a brick retaining wall ten feet or more high, on which fruit trees were trained. Later, Mr. Tufts bought the west lot and erected the house occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Prescott.

When that wonderfully odd plant, the night-blooming cereus, on the place, unfolded its sweet flowers, the Bigelows were accustomed to invite their friends to witness the sight.

Our Medford Pepys,\* comparing the town's first two lawyers, left this record: "Mr. Bigelow wished to have credit for wit and brilliant repartee, and in company sought to encounter Mr. Bartlett, but Mr. Bartlett's mind was more brilliant, and Mr. Bigelow generally came off second best."

E. M. G.

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#### AN OLD-TIME MEDFORD GARDENER.

The family of Martin Burrige was descended from English stock found in Seething, Norfolk county. Robert, the first ancestor of whom there is any record, was there early in the sixteenth century. John, a great-grandson, became the emigrant ancestor, coming to Charlestown about 1637. One of his sons took Burrige, and another Burrage, as the form for the family name, and their descendants respectively have followed the standard set for them. This line is successively traced from Charlestown to Newton, Concord, Lunenburg, where John of the ninth generation married Lois Barthrick of that town in 1781. His brother Jonathan married Lois' sister Sally. Hannah (sister of John and Jonathan of Lunenburg) married Samuel Buel of Medford, August 22, 1799. John was a soldier in the war

\* Caleb Swan.

of the Revolution. About 1800 he came to Medford, where he died, July 20, 1822.

Mr. Francis Converse of Medford, meeting someone by the name of Burrige in Boston, where he traded, asked if he was related to the late John Burrige of Medford, saying, "It would be an honor to be, for he was a very worthy man, greatly respected in Medford by all who knew him."

While here, John Burrige followed the occupation of gardener. His family consisted of six sons and one daughter. Only such will be considered here as were connected with Medford. At the time he moved here his oldest child was eighteen, the youngest an infant.

John, the second son, married Rebecca Greenleaf of this town, February 13, 1812. His branch is extinct.

Betsey, or Elizabeth, married, May 11, 1814, David Bucknam of Medford. Mrs. Bucknam kept a private school, and among family papers is a reward of merit given by her to her niece Eliza, daughter of Martin. Many teachers of that time gave home-made merits, but this is a printed one, as a line at the bottom attests, "Sold by N. S. Simpkins & Co. Court street Boston." It is in black and white, at the top a picture of a big dog and a small boy, below two verses (rather serious for a child) on the "Improvement of Time." It is not a work of art, nor has it much to charm a child.

Martin, the fifth child, born July 27, 1793, married Eliza Withington, September 8, 1816. She was an aunt of Assessor Henry Withington, who died January 21, 1918. There were five children by this marriage. Notice their names, for they indicate hero worship or esteem for the employer's family and the good doctor of the town: Andrew Bigelow, John Brooks, Katharine Lawrence. Did this little girl, who bore the name of a distinguished family, ever dream she would become possessed of great wealth? Let us thank her for the gift she, in womanhood, gave her native town for four-footed friends — the stone drinking fountain on Salem street, near its junction with Spring, inscribed,

THE GIFT OF MRS. K. L. S. TEELE  
1892

Mrs. Burridge died December 7, 1839.

Mr. Burridge married for his second wife Hannah Pratt, May 7, 1840, who died December 12, 1876. He died at his home in Malden, October 27, 1879. To the last he loved flowers, and his whole life was spent in the occupation of gardening. A granddaughter and two great-grandchildren are living in Medford, and two other great-grandchildren, with their children, have moved toward the West to found homes, one to the far-away Pacific.

E. M. G.

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**A REMEMBRANCE OF THE OLD BAKERY.**

Martin Burridge's brother-in-law, Henry Withington (the second of the name in this town, and father of the late assessor), enjoyed telling, so the latter informed the writer, that he was once a scullion in Timothy Bigelow's kitchen. Whatever his service or position there, without doubt he had an experience that enabled him, when he entered into the bakery business, to supply his townsmen with superior products.

Who does not love to recall that little old shop, than which nothing in story or reality was quainter nor more alluring. Small, low studded, with beamed ceiling, it looked antique in every particular, with the tiny desk on the wall where one stood or perched on a high stool to cast up his accounts. You might enter sometime and find no one to attend to your wants, but a bell on the door as you opened it had given notice of your entering, and very soon someone opened a glass door of a living-room at the west, stepped down two steps, and waited upon you; or perhaps he came in from some old room or odd corner at the north.

Little children used to wonder where the yeast came from as they handed up a pail or bottle for a penny's worth, and they spent their pennies for the few sweet

things the shop carried, Gibaltars, and a large, white, flat cocoanut cake with a pink piece in the middle that seemed to them the *ne plus ultra* of toothsome-ness. Their elders enjoyed the good brownbread, buns, and brick loaves, and when they went to spend a day in the country, carried a supply to their friends, who, living far from a bakery, esteemed Medford bread and buns a luxury.

Grown men, once pupils at the Hathaway school, came to the town with their young sons to buy cocoanut cakes for them such as they bought in school-boy days. The smell of fresh baked crackers was enough to revive a fainting man, and Medfordites went thronging to the shop, the days they were baked, with big baskets and little baskets, and thought there was no better lunch than crackers right from the oven with plenty of good sweet butter.

In the earlier days this shop was smaller and more alluring than it was when torn down, for the portion east of the entrance door was an unfinished room where barrels and barrels of crackers were packed. The house, a close companion of the shop, was very antique, especially in the rooms at the back, and we really know but little about its age and history, as but little has been said of the interior of the old house, but much of the story of the business of the firm has been printed.

E. M. G.

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#### MEDFORD COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY.

When the United States finally declared war against Germany in April, 1917, the entire country sprang into activity, and entered eagerly into ways and means for "preparedness." The nation went into one vast committee of the whole, subdivided into national, state, city, town, village, and hamlet branches. These organizations bore the expressive and comprehensive title of Committee on Public Safety.

Medford's committee was organized in April, 1917.

The general committee was composed of three hundred and twenty-five members, with an executive committee of nine. Mr. Irwin O. Wright was elected chairman and much of the successful work of the committee has been due to his wise patience and tactful judgment.

The following sub-committees were created: finance, co-ordination of aid societies, food production and conservation, publicity, hygiene and medicine, transportation, home guard, recruiting.

All work is done under the following declaration: "The declared purpose is to serve the people of Medford in all matters incident to the war that do not come within the scope of the regularly constituted national, state or city government."

The expenses of the work for the first months was defrayed by voluntary contributions of the public. This was the plan followed by most of the cities and towns, many places giving thousands of dollars for the purpose. The second year Medford's city government made an appropriation to carry on the work of the committee, having a regular office, with a paid secretary and assistant, the purpose of the executive committee being to make the office a clearing house for the varied war activities. Mr. James A. Cotting was elected secretary, and Miss Alice Bearse assistant. In the absence of actual hostile emergencies, which as yet have not been thrust upon us, the Committee on Public Safety has taken up the more immediate local needs of the community: food, fuel, public health, liberty loans, information regarding Medford soldiers, etc.

The winter of 1917-18 will long be remembered as one of intense severity. Coupled with the cold weather was a scarcity of coal, and the local fuel committee was obliged to issue coal cards for one hundred pounds each, in order to secure an equitable distribution. Towards twenty thousand of these cards were issued. During the past summer the State assumed control of sugar. For preserving purposes, cards for twenty-five pounds or less

were given on application at the public safety office. More than five thousand cards were issued.

It is the purpose of the office to keep in touch with all matters of public interest and welfare. It works under the authority of the State and is the medium through which the wishes and commands of the State commissions are promulgated.

Mr. Cotting severed his connection with the committee in July last, to enter Y. M. C. A. work over seas. The present secretary is Charles H. Loomis.

C. H. L.

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#### CONNECTING LINK IN MEDFORD CHURCH HISTORY.

At various meetings of the Historical Society, papers have been read relative to the church history of Medford, and all such have been preserved in pages of the REGISTER. They tell the story of the various religious societies, seven in number, that were first of their order in the old town. These have been succeeded by four others of the same order, later organized. There are still others, perhaps a dozen, whose history should be a matter of printed record, that as yet have not been thus presented. As a matter of record, we take occasion here to mention, ere facts are lost sight of, the

#### WEST MEDFORD CHRISTIAN UNION.

Mr. Hooper, in his brief "History of Medford," is the only author that mentions it as a society under this caption, giving its meeting place, and names of four ministers.

Mr. Usher (on page 276) in treating of the West Medford Congregational church, said, the "Union was formed for the support of public religious worship; and preaching services were held Sunday morning and evening in Mystic Hall."

Mr. David H. Brown (in Vol. XI, p. 24, REGISTER) said, "December 1, 1907, was the fortieth anniversary of public religious services in West Medford," named Mystic hall as the place, but did not give the name of the



preacher. This makes the date specific — December 1, 1867 — agreeing as to the year with Mr. Hooper, but placing it earlier than Mr. Usher, who is correct in his statement that “there was no church organization.”

As this “Christian Union” formed a connecting link between the earlier and later organized churches of various orders in Medford, it is of interest that its brief history be preserved.

In 1865 Medford had a population of 4,839; in 1870, 5,717; it is safe to assume that in December, 1867, a little rising 5,000. Its outlying villages were East Medford (now called Glenwood) and West Medford, the latter the larger, more residential, with possibly 500 people, and with the advantage of a hall where public gatherings could be held.

For some two years there had been a neighborhood Sunday school, and from this effort for the children grew that of a public service for their elders. It is a matter of doubt if there are still any *residents* living who attended that first gathering in 1867. Mr. Brown must have had some data from which to make his statement, but he was not a resident in 1867.

The present writer first attended its services on July 9, 1870, and thereafter was conversant with facts and writes from personal knowledge. He has already (some years since) given in our pages an account of that occasion in a paper on “West Medford in 1870.” The Union was a neighborhood affair which was expected in time to grow into a Protestant church of some order, or possibly a “Union church,” hence the appropriate name in some way adopted. It may be that sometime records that must have been kept may be found, and give more accurate information. We have been told that such were deposited in the office of the town clerk, but recent research among the city records therefor has been fruitless.

Up to April, 1870, Rev. Melville B. Chapman, a student in Boston University, supplied its pulpit. He was of the Methodist Episcopal order, was much liked by

the people, and at the above date was, by his bishop, appointed minister of his church in Wakefield, Mass. He in later years achieved success and prominence in the Christian ministry, making a good beginning with the "Union" in West Medford. He was succeeded by Rev. Louis E. Charpiot, a French gentleman of much ability and many excellent qualities, who had been pastor of a Congregational church in Stratfield, Conn., but was just then engaged in journalism upon the *Nation*, published in Boston by James M. Usher. The latter, recognizing his ability, was instrumental in bringing him to West Medford.

Mr. Usher, in the history above quoted, says truly of the "Union," "As there was no church organization the arrangement was not wholly satisfactory." Mr. Charpiot preached twice on Sunday, attended and conducted a class in the independent Sunday school in the afternoon, and for some time tried the experiment of a mid-week prayer service on Thursday evening. This latter was but slightly attended, as the more zealous church members attended the like gatherings in the Medford churches with which they were connected. The Sabbath gatherings made a good showing (for the capacity of the hall) and were a convenience for the older people and those not actively engaged in church work.

In 1870 some building operations commenced and new comers were in evidence. A weekly paper in Medford began publication in December, and the following, clipped from its issue of February 11, 1871, shows that interest was being taken in the matter of a village meeting-house:—

Good!

We announced, two weeks since, that if the ground could be secured and the material furnished, Mr. John H. Norton would do all the work for the erection of a meeting-house, to be located in West Medford, without charge—all as a free gift.

This week we are happy to be able to inform our readers that the gentlemen who have recently purchased the Smith estate, and who are making many improvements which all rejoice to see, have

authorized us to say that they will give the land for a meeting-house. That's noble! Messrs. Story, Judkins and Holton never were behind hand in good deeds. Three cheers for the friends that make this generous offer! Now who will have the honor of giving the stock? Who? We shall be glad to announce the name next week. Three cheers and a tiger for the man, whoever he may be!

The following month there appeared in the same *Medford Journal* a communication that was both history and appeal, under date of March 18: —

EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL: — Will you allow me to say a few words in relation to the West Medford Christian Union Society:

That organization has now been in existence for about three years, and from the start it has done well, the last year, especially, being of unusual interest. Mystic Hall has been filled every Sunday with attentive audiences, and the Sunday school embraces nearly all the children in the place. In fact the Hall has become altogether too small for the purposes of the Society, and for some time past the question of building a suitable house of worship has been seriously agitated by the people in West Medford.

The annual meeting of the Society is to be held next Monday evening in Mystic Hall, and my object in sending you this communication is, through your valuable paper, to remind the people in the neighborhood of that fact. There should be a full attendance at that meeting, and decided measures should be taken about erecting a suitable place in which to hold religious services. Now is the time to act. West Medford is growing, the people are a church-going people, and this part of the town would be greatly helped by having a meeting-house. Aside from the influence which it would have upon the people themselves, every property-holder knows that the value of his property would be thereby enhanced, and a good church would help much towards attracting, in the neighborhood, the right kind of people that would truly build up the place.

Let me say again that never was there a time more propitious than the present for such an undertaking. Besides the fact that the land and the labor of the builder have been offered free of expense, the Society never was in a better situation than now. Both the Sunday services and the Sunday school are full, and the pastor, Rev. Louis E. Charpiot, has been very faithful and remarkably successful.

Will not the people turn out on Monday evening next, and let the Society's business be promptly done? UNION.

This was immediately followed by an editorial notice:

## AN IMPORTANT MEETING IN WEST MEDFORD.

We gladly publish the above communication about the West Medford Christian Union, to which we call the earnest attention of our readers in that growing part of our town.

The people in West Medford have done remarkably well in establishing and keeping up religious services in their neighborhood, and they deserve much credit for it. By that means many have attended church who would not have done so otherwise, and the foundation has been laid for a large and prosperous society. The time is come, however, in which they should do the next thing, that is, build a church, and we shall be much mistaken in the enterprise and earnestness of the West Medford people if they do not take measures for the accomplishment of that project at their meeting next Monday evening. We understand that all in West Medford who are interested in the matter are entitled to take part in the meeting and earnestly urged to attend it. A church in West Medford would be just the thing for that part of the town, and we hope to see its spire and hear its bell before long.

The writer attended the annual meeting thus alluded to, and can witness that the *Journal* man's report of the same, which followed on March 25, is correct:—

## WEST MEDFORD CHRISTIAN UNION.

The annual meeting of the West Medford Christian Union was held in Mystic Hall last Monday evening. Mr. A. B. Morss was elected Chairman, and S. S. Leavitt served as Secretary. The report of the Clerk and Treasurer was presented, showing the society to be in a sound condition financially. The report was unanimously accepted. Messrs. Farwell, Stevens, McLean, Mann and Ritchie were elected to serve as an Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

It was voted that the thanks of the society be presented to the Pastor, Rev. Mr. Charpiot, for the able and faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office, and that he be invited to remain with us another year.

The Executive Committee were instructed to confer with the proprietors of the "Smith Estate" in regard to the land which they had kindly offered to donate to the society to build upon, and to report at the adjourned meeting. Mr. John H. Norton repeated his munificent offer to build a church provided the materials were furnished, and there seem to be good grounds for believing that this much needed enterprise will now go forward to completion.

Messrs. J. W. Wilson, E. W. Cross, and S. S. Leavitt were

selected as a committee to solicit subscriptions to maintain preaching during the coming year. Mr. Leavitt was re-elected Treasurer. The meeting was adjourned to next Monday evening.

We recall that Mr. Leavitt began his duty at once by asking each one present, "How much will you do for the cause of the Lord this year?" and made note of their replies.

There was considerable interest manifested at first in the project. Several meetings were held, and the executive committee went to view newly erected church buildings in Everett and Stoneham as models for the one proposed. The land owners put no condition of denomination upon their proposed gift, neither did Mr. Norton upon his. The land owners selected and offered the site of present Trinity church, but there were those that wanted a location "on the other side of the railroad," regardless of the fact that the village was to grow in the other direction.

Just at this time the Baptists and Methodists at Medford began new church building plans, and as the modern summer vacation had just come in vogue, the project was laid over till autumn. The executive committee found that in the raising of funds people were not ready to accept the idea of a "Union church" with no recognized denomination to sustain it. Mr. Usher, in the history already quoted from, said, "several plans for a church (meaning organization) were considered and given up, when a few citizens thought a Congregational church could be supported if an organization was effected." Some others, of the Baptist order, went so far as to issue a warrant calling "a meeting of the First Baptist church in West Medford," but nothing came of it.

During the summer Mr. Charpiot became the victim of some unscrupulous persons who took advantage of his inherited tendencies and brought him to West Medford in a helpless and pitiable condition. Feeling this disgrace deeply, he resigned his ministry and left town. It should be said here that he later rallied from the evil

effects of the same, went into work for others thus afflicted, achieved success therein, married again, and until his death, some years later, was much respected and beloved.

Directly there was a "sociable" held in Mystic Hall to forward the enterprise. It was largely attended, and probably the first gathering of the kind in that part of the town. Refreshments were lavishly provided, and the following afternoon a similar gathering was held for the children.

With Mr. Charpiot's removal several families withdrew both attendance and support, and the congregation gradually decreased. The committee supplied the pulpit by clergymen of various denominations—Unitarian, Universalist, Methodist, Baptist—but there was the feeling that the continuous service of some one preacher was desirable. With this in view, in November, the Rev. William Edwards Huntington was secured by the committee which, by the resignation of Mr. Ritchie and election of Mr. C. E. Hhippsley, consisted of one Unitarian, one Baptist and three Methodists.

With the prevailing feeling that a "Union church" would be impracticable, and that an active church of some denomination should take up the work, this action was a logical and natural sequence.

Mr. Huntington was about to graduate from Boston University, of which he was in after years the honored president. He served as his predecessors had done, by preaching twice each Sabbath, but as the so-called Christian Union was not a *church*, did not enter into pastoral work. Though the Methodists began in October to hold class meetings, organized by the pastor of the First M. E. Church of Medford, Mr. Huntington was in no way connected with them.

Thus the year continued until the time of an annual meeting, which was held in the evening of April 1, 1872, twenty-two persons being present. By this time the class meeting of the Methodists had resulted in the or-

ganization of a church of that order, and steps had been taken in the same direction by the Congregational people, both expecting to begin their services in Mystic hall. It is somewhat significant of existing conditions that at this meeting, after the former committee had been re-elected but declined to serve, a new executive committee was chosen for six months. The use of Mystic hall had at first been *given* the Union, and on change of ownership the same condition continued, the new owners saying, "You can have it as long as you wish it."\*

The minority voters in that last annual meeting ceased regular attendance under the new management, and on June 12 the West Medford Congregational church was, by a "Council," recognized.

The election of committee for six months may be readily understood when we read a subsequent statement—"The organization was continued till October, 1872, when the West Medford Congregational Society was ready to do business." (Vol. XIII, p. 28, REGISTER.) That there was some feeling over said action is indicated, as we read, "Years have passed away. . . . Any difference or unpleasantness that may have been then are outgrown." (REGISTER, Vol. XIV, p. 33.)

A few words concerning the Union's meeting place may be of interest. Mystic hall was also the rallying place of the Lyceum and Library Association, and had been the home of Mrs. Smith's somewhat famous seminary (1854-1858). For public use its furnishings were simple. The platform (two steps high), said to be enclosed by the panel-work of the seminary organ, was laid with a red carpet, and had upon it a haircloth sofa and a chestnut pulpit with walnut mouldings, the work of some village carpenter. There were two large cases of

\* That the land owners, who also owned Mystic hall, made their offer in good faith is shown by the fact that in the following years, when the two resultant churches were erected, the company, in the persons of the two latter named, assisted in the purchase of land to the extent of \$2,860.00. Mr. Norton was the largest contributor to the erection of the Congregational church edifice, and later the donor of its parsonage and land.

similar construction at the rear of the room, filled with books of the association's library. In the other corner was a cylinder stove of the 1850 style. About six feet high, it was famous for its heating qualities, and now, after forty-eight years more, for its longevity, as it is still in commission "at the old stand." Wooden settees, some painted, perhaps relics of the seminary, with others of later introduction, stained with the umber of human contact, seated the attendants. An ornamental chandelier, originally with glass prism pendants, held four kerosene lamps. There was also a shaded lamp for the pulpit. As there were no collections (this was before the days of "weekly offerings") there were no "contribution boxes," as the term used to be. A cabinet organ, loaned by some interested one, completed the furnishings of the room, which was well finished and lighted by six large unshaded windows.

It would be interesting to trace the fate of such of these articles as are not there still in use. Suffice it to say, that the "pulpit" was in later years in evidence as a desk or counter in a West Medford paint shop.

Four West Medford churches, Congregational, Universalist, Baptist and Shiloh, have been served by these and similar in this same Mystic hall.

Reference has been made to records of the Christian Union. Could such be found, more accurate statement of its final dissolution might be written. Till then, Mr. Hooper's statement is fitting: —

This Society retained its organization until 1872, when its leading members took measures to form themselves into separate organizations.

The records of such show Trinity (Methodist Episcopal), April 1, 1872; West Medford Congregational, June 12, 1872. These are the first of the new order. Their half century mark is nearing. The West Medford Christian Union prepared the way.

M. W. M.



### A RILL OF WATER-TROUGHS.

As a matter of history, be it noted that Medford has "gone dry" (this in 1914) in the matter of public watering places for horses. Within the memory of our oldest people the principal highways passed *through* Meeting-house, Gravelly and Whitmore brooks, as well as *over* their various bridges. There horses and cattle could drink or the family carriage be washed. Mr. Woolley has preserved a view of the first-named in his picture of the second meeting-house.

Time was when the town-pump was indispensable and its condition carefully noted by the fire engineers. To such, a necessary adjunct was the old-time watering-trough, kept full by the laborious effort of each comer, though some thoughtless ones did not fill it. After Spot pond water was introduced, the old troughs disappeared and "drinking fountains" of various patterns were installed. In the square, and at West Medford, a big iron vase with a lamp-post rising from its center made an ornamental feature, but was too frail to withstand the shock of the heavy pole of a two-horse truck. The former gave place to a circular and substantial structure of granite, and the latter to a section of heavy water-main set upright in the ground and partially filled with concrete. At Winthrop square and at corner of Salem and Spring streets were triangular granite blocks nearly four feet high, which saved the need of alighting to uncheck the horse. The latter is referred to on another page, and in verifying its date a visit was made to the Water Department's "graveyard." It still remains intact, but inverted among the remains of various others. In reply to inquiry, the courteous registrar said, "Oh! Medford wasn't up-to-date," and explained that in 1914 the Bureau of Animal Industries requested the closing of all such watering places because of the prevalence of glanders, and consequent dangers to horses.

This was done, and after a time, for various reasons,

all were removed and faucets provided at accessible places where teamsters can procure water in their own pails. Thus, now even the horse has his individual drinking cup, the watering-trough is a thing of the past, and Medford, in this at least, is "up-to-date."

---

### ON ONE SIDE OF MEDFORD SQUARE.

The REGISTER has in previous issues alluded to the modernizing of Medford square. There is, however, one side that changes but little. It still has the substantial dwelling and store quarters erected at the close of the Revolution by Jonathan Porter, first occupied by him, next by his son George Washington Porter, and is still owned by one of his descendants. By courtesy of the present occupant, the Medford Publishing Company, a view of it is given in our frontispiece. This view is reproduced from a daguerreotype taken about midway in its history, (*i.e.*, in the early fifties), by Wilkinson, the Medford artist who was sometime housed therein. The building stands upon the site of the "Royal Oak Tavern" of colonial days, which stood on or very near the site of the "ferme-house" erected by Cradock's men in 1630. At the time of taking this view but few changes had been made in the building, those made needful by the erection of the brick structure which had been built against its southern end. The roof was extended against the higher brick wall and an entrance and staircase made beneath, at present 6 Main street. The grade of Main street had been raised about two feet, the big willow tree removed, and the stone pillar (called Howe's folly) across the street by the town hall shows in the view. Now, after about a hundred and thirty years, this substantial old house, one of the best in the Medford of its time, takes on a new lease of life by its housing of the "art preservative." Its first owner was the tavern keeper in the years that preceded and during the Revolution. The old sign with the emblems of royalty and the royal motto *Dieu et mon droit*, suffered at the hands of the

minute-men as they came back from Lexington, and was taken down. That the tavern ceased to be the "Royal Oak" is shown by a letter, still preserved, written by Rogers, the New Hampshire "Ranger" in 1775 from "Porter's tavern in Medford." Within a few weeks one of his descendants has been here in Medford to see the location and also the Royall house, and to tread over the route taken by her ancestor.

After the war, which seems to have left Porter in better circumstances than it did others, as shown by the erection of this house, he engaged in a general merchandise business which included the necessities of life, "West India Goods and Groceries." So did his son, and the long line of their successors down to date. It is also noticeable that in the newer building adjoining, the present occupant also succeeds several others in the same line as his own. Inspection of the view will show that at the other end, about a dozen feet have been removed in the widening of old Ship street. At that time the artistic front door, the big chimney and capacious fireplaces of the Porter residence were removed, and the living rooms devoted to business,—drugstore, apothecary-shop, pharmacy—such was the evolution, but of this some other can speak or write with certainty.

On the second floor were offices of various Medford lawyers, and for many years the daguerrean rooms of Wilkin-son and later Treadwell. Amos B. Morss had there his printing office and ventured on the publication of the *Chronicle*, and there also George W. Stetson of the *Leader* had his editorial sanctum. Fraternal organizations have found quarters there, and for a year and a half the Historical Society a temporary dwelling place. Real estate and intelligence offices, and lastly the modern invention of a vacuum cleaner seems to have been the last word in the long line of uses to which this part of the Porter house has been put. Then after a vacuum (or vacancy rather) for about a year with adverse conditons—war or otherwise—below, the Medford Publishing Company has taken the old

house and in its first issue of the *Mercury*, there printed, gave an account of its history. Its existence covers the period of constitutional government of our country. All our presidential campaigns, our wars and our politics have there been discussed. Past its old walls the Medford men of '61, of '98 and '18 have marched away, the latter to help do away with the royal motto that so recently was "Meinself und Gott." It was fitting that from out these old walls the following issue of the *Mercury* should send out the story of how Medford received the news of their success and of the retirement of the *senior partner* on November 11th, and how it celebrated Victory Day.

Excepting the removal of the front door and the introduction of plate glass, the general appearance of the old Porter house has changed but little. Its builders did their work well, as time has proved. They had none of the modern appliances with which to work; a steam saw or planing mill was then unknown. All its timbers were hewn and its nails hand-made. It was forty-three years old when the stately town hall, that for eighty years worthily served municipal and social interests, was built. Other and more pretentious buildings have arisen nearby, some of them now gone, others in decadence. With its present use the old Porter house bids fair to remain for years to come, an unchanging landmark on one side of Medford square.

---

#### THE "REGISTER" OF AGE.

The present issue completes the REGISTER's twenty-first volume. Delayed in attaining its majority by war conditions, and bearing date of October, its earlier pages went to press on the eve of *Victory Day*. It will fall within its scope, in future issues, to make note of Medford's participation in the great struggle, not only over seas, but of the home workers, and of the newer work which citizens of Medford may do.

It has been said "the nineteenth century made the

world a *neighborhood*; the twentieth must make it a *brotherhood*." The neighborhood of "over there" was never so apparent as on the morning of November 11th. Thanksgiving Day takes on new meaning, and the brotherhood of the future will be realized yet more as we adapt ourselves to the new conditions.

Since the REGISTER's first issue Medford has well nigh trebled in population. Even a cursory glance at the names in the so-called Ward Book will show an almost cosmopolitan make-up. Much is said of the "melting-pot" of our democracy in these later days, but unless wise counsels prevail this increase is a menace, and Medford democracy neither safe nor sane. Some particular phases of this growth have not, as yet, been considered in the REGISTER's pages. As a matter of history they should be, by some careful, unprejudiced writer. Who will do it?

---

#### STILL FORWARD.

The REGISTER has noted under *Sale and Removal, Forward Movement*, and *Moving Forward* (two years since), something of the home conditions of the Historical Society. With this page at disposal is timely reference to a few facts. The Society conserved its original investment in the old home (given therefor) by the purchase of its present site, the balance remaining going to the new structure. *Contrary* to current report, the City of Medford *did not give this land*. It was *bought and paid for*. Only fifty-six people, all but eight of whom are in the membership list, have contributed to the building fund. One of the eight, unknown by name, a non-resident, was the first to contribute. So the fact remains, that outside the Society's membership but *seven* of old historic Medford's people have substantially aided the effort, and that to the amount of less than one hundred dollars. Economic administration of the Society's affairs made the occupancy of the new home needful ere completion.

### OUR TWENTIETH VOLUME.

The October issue of the REGISTER completed two decades of service in the preservation of Medford annals. It has put into permanent form for reference many of the interesting papers that have been prepared for and read before the Historical Society, which assumes its publication and gathered up very many local incidents and features of interest that otherwise would have been lost. All these can be safely drawn upon by such as shall sometime write an adequate history of our city. Exclusive of title and index, its pages now number 2140 of superior quality.

It has always been a labor of love by its contributors and editors, and no inconsiderable draft on the Society's treasury. Other historical works our town and city have three times assisted financially, but the REGISTER has been maintained by its own and the Historical Society's efforts. The text-book used in our public schools has drawn largely upon it for facts, and was carefully examined by the REGISTER editor before its introduction.

We bespeak for the coming issue a more lively interest and larger circulation, and call attention to the fact that a *limited* number of full sets may yet be procured which contain a wealth of information nowhere else to be found regarding our city.

Few historical societies can show a longer or better record in publication. If as far as possible, members become subscribers, and by individual work add thereto, a better future awaits our effort.

---

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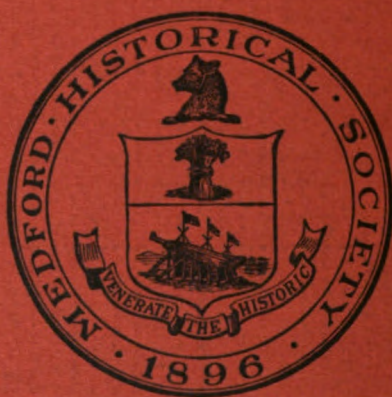


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# HISTORICAL REGISTER



APRIL, 1919

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### FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_





CHEMICAL WORKS AND SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S HOUSE,  
TOW-PATH AND CANAL BED,  
LOOKING EAST, IN 1890.



OLD TOW-PATH, LOOKING WEST  
TOWARD BOSTON AVENUE,  
1890.



NEW STOREHOUSE OF AMERICAN WOOLEN CO., LOOKING SOUTH.



FACTORY OF STONE, TIMLOW CO., LOOKING NORTH.

# The Medford Historical Register.

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## HOW DID MEDFORD GET ITS NAME?

**S**UCH is the question we are asked, and an authoritative answer for publication is expected. Under such circumstances one naturally turns to official records and published history.

The first mention of Medford is in the colony record of the General Court, under date of September 28, 1630, when 3 $\text{L}$  was levied upon it for the support of military instructors.

Under the same date a coroner's jury returned its verdict in the death of Austin Bratcher at Mr. Cradock's farm, which resulted in the indictment of Walter Palmer for manslaughter and his subsequent acquittal from the charge in November. But one of Cradock's "servants" held variant opinion and sought "to traduce the court," and was sentenced to be whipped therefor, being the fifth in the colony to receive such sentence.

Here we find Medford's entrance into the limelight of history. Mr. Cradock's farm was a tract of land a mile wide (approximately) and four miles along the riverside from Charlestown, which then extended some fifteen miles north-westward.

The Indians that lived there were called "Abergini-ans," and their name comes down to us today, in that of the *Aberjona*, the upper reach of their river, the tidal stream they called *Missi-tuk*, which the English tongue called *Mistick*.

That it was the locality is proven by Josselyn, in 1638, as "three miles from Charlestown and a league and a half, four and one-half miles, by water" *i.e.*, by the winding or circuitous river's course. He applied the name *Mistick* to the little settlement on the northwest side of

the river. So here are three names of one and the same place, all cotemporary: first, *Medford*, from the colony record; second, *Mr. Cradock's farm*, also from the colony record; third, *Mistick*, from Josselyn, is of Indian origin. The second was proprietary, but would of necessity be in time outgrown and disused. The third was official and remains. But why Medford? Towns are named by official, *i.e.*, by governmental, executive or legislative action, in honor or memory of persons or places, as well as peculiarities. In those early days the incorporating words were few; as witness, "Charlestown Village is called Wooburne," "Sagust is called Linn." But we search the colony records in vain to find that Mr. Cradock's farm is called Medford; and literally speaking, the early Medford was never incorporated. Like Topsy, she simply "grewed." Still the fact remains that in September, 1630, a tax of three pounds had been laid upon a place designated by the General Court as Medford and again we ask "why Medford?" When and by whom previously? There are no *local* records to search—really none till 1674. Neither were there any dictagraphs in those early days to can the words of the godfather who named the town, calling it Medford, and to be laid away in the garret of the "ferme-house" long since gone. We can only answer the query by the result of reason and research. We have already noted the geographical situation of Mr. Cradock's farm, the early Medford.

The seventeenth of June, 1630, is commonly accepted, and two hundred and seventy-five years after was celebrated, as the time of settlement, and again we may ask why. Because Governor Winthrop wrote, "We went up Mistick river about six miles." But Winthrop did not settle in Medford but in Charlestown, on the other side of the river. However, as seen in Deputy Governor Dudley's letter (of March 28, 1631) to the Countess of Lincoln, of those coming from Salem, some "found a *good place upon Mistick*," "which we named *Meadford*." Here then is the earliest authentic account we have of the

naming of Medford. Again in our search we ask "why Medford" and answer our own query, thus— Because the "good place upon Mistick" was to be Mr. Cradock's farm, and they so called it, from Medford in Staffordshire in the old England they came from, and which old shire Mr. Cradock had represented in Parliament since 1620, the eighteenth year of the reign of James the first.

As we had no dictagraph record of Dudley's pronunciation, we have naturally considered that *M-e-a-d* was called phonetically Meed, and so has come the usual interpretation of Medford, as *Meadow-ford*, though in 1855, historian Brooks gave it as "great-meadow" making no mention therewith of the fording place he knew to have existed. He directly tells us that in one of the earliest deeds of sale it is written "Metford," and that after 1715 it has been uniformly written "Medford." Meadow-ford would not have been an inappropriate designation for a *specific place* in the river's course; but ancient Medford or Mr. Cradock's farm was four miles long.

Now a few words relative to *Metford*, and copy of a written note attached to a copy of the History of Medford (Brooks) by Caleb Swan, which is of interest, and never before published.

MEDFORD, July 31, 1857.

Mr. Charles Brooks (the author of this book) dining with us at Dr. Swan's today—Mrs Adams and daughter of Winter hill being present—said that he had lately ascertained that the original name of the town was *Metford*—after a county seat Governor Cradock in England in Staffordshire called Metford and that he named his new town from that and that in his will he called it *Metford in New England*.

The above date is two years subsequent to the publication of the book which contains many other interesting notes and is the property of the Medford Historical Society.

In *Staffordshire Names and Places* p. 101 (1902) we find

*Meaford*, 1½ m. N.W. of Stone D \* *Mepford*, Metford; 1173 *Medford*; 1251, later Mefford.

\*Domesday Book.

Meaford lies on the Trent, where it is crossed by the great road from London to the N.W. The terminal *ford* doubtless applies to the passage of the river. Despite the D.\* forms the prefix may be accepted as *Med* which is difficult to interpret. It may represent A.S.† *maed*, a meadow, but meadow-ford is not a satisfactory interpretation. There is a small stream running into Trent at Meaford and *Med* may represent its ancient name.

In *Surveys of Staffordshire* Preface p. xvi is mention by a contemporary diarist, of

R. Caverswall house Mr Cradock owns it.

And elsewhere in same book is

1640, 15 Ch. [arles] I Matthew Cradock Eng. merchant returned to Parliament for the City of London.

The last Matthew Cradock built the house at Caverswall.

To our caption query we reply: The original settlement of Medford was by men in the employ and interest of Matthew Cradock, merchant of London. He was the first "governor" or president of a trading company chartered by King Charles I. He never came oversea but suggested the transfer here of the charter which became the foundation of a commonwealth.

Old home associations such as Mr. Brooks alluded to at Dr. Swan's dinner-table (also alluded to by the English diarist quoted) may have prompted him to call the new plantation he was starting, *Medford* or *Metford*. Dudley, his associate and successor in office, writes "which we named Meadford," thus differing slightly in possible pronunciation.

Whether *d* or *t* is of little moment but it is tantalizing that Mr. Brooks failed to mention the sources of *his* information regarding the Staffordshire town. Called in "Domesday Book" both Medford and Metford, in 1173 it was called Medford. In 1251 it was still Medford, later it was Mefford; and in 1892, and probably now, Meaford—all this variety of spelling (possibly *not of pronunciation*) in staid old England. Somehow we fancy that *e* has its

\*Domesday Book.

†Anglo Saxon.



short sound in all, as a recent comer from Staffordshire pronounces the present Meaford *Mefford*. The New England town, now a city of 37,000 people, has almost from its earliest days been called Medford and sixteen others in as many states bear the name spelled in the same way and more or less traceable thereto.

We have tried to answer the query on lines of *historic truth*, citing only credible evidence. Our readers must decide for themselves much as did the children who asked which was the lion and which the baboon, and were told by the accommodating showman, "Just which you pleases, little dears, you pays your money and you takes your choice."

Our choice is, Medford got its name from Medford in Staffordshire, Old England.

---

#### IN ANOTHER CORNER OF MEDFORD.

Topographically speaking, Medford is a city of numerous corners — thirty-four, to be exact. Some are near busy highways, others in the rocky solitudes of Middlesex Fells; several are on the College hill slopes, while yet others are unseen by the eye of man in the river's bed and the depth of Mystic lake. For a more minute description of these angular localities the reader is referred to Vol. XVIII, page 90, of the REGISTER, and for views of the same to the volume entitled "Boundaries."

Some years since, the REGISTER, in Vol. XIII, page 97, described one of these corners in some detail, illustrating the same by a sketch of its physical features which a former Medford man had made in 1855, probably little thinking that years after he had passed on, it would attract attention.

Twenty years before, with the same praiseworthy intent, another, doubtless and "evidently a novice," attempted to portray another corner of Medford, which is the scene and subject of the present writing. Like the other, its principal physical features were three in num-

ber, one natural and two artificial. Efforts to reproduce the same for the REGISTER's pages have as yet been unsuccessful. It bears this legend, "Junction of River, Canal and Rail-road in Medford, 1835." This locality is one specific point referred to in a recent address before the Historical Society, entitled "The Story of An Ancient Cow-Pasture." Request was then and there made for its publication. As the speaker compiled his story largely from the REGISTER's pages, the reader is referred to them, and the present article will concern but the *border* of the "ancient cow-pasture," which is destined to become the scene of busy industry as well as of modern pleasure taking.

As the "corner" previously described was not in the original Medford (*i.e.*, Mr. Cradock's farm), so was this likewise a part of ancient Charlestown. That old town, once extensive and once entirely surrounding Medford, is now absorbed by Boston. Its cow-commons have been well defined by our townsman Hooper in his story of the "Stinted Pasture." Not until 1754 did Medford acquire this "corner," and even then not all the Charlestown proprietors became Medfordites. An examination of the map will show a serrated boundary line extending over and around College hill to a bend in the river, which was *north* of the railroad. Thence the boundary between Charlestown and Medford continued, as of old, by "the thread of the river" onward into Mystic lake. In 1850 all of old Charlestown lying outside the "Neck" (at Sullivan square) as far west as the Menotomy river was incorporated as the town of Somerville. Thus it occurs that the old riverside cow-stints of that long-ago time are sandwiched in between precincts one and two of the sixth ward of Medford. To be strictly correct our caption should be, "In Another Corner of Medford and Somerville." Perhaps "In Somerville's *Appendix*" might not be inappropriate, and in the interest of the local history of both we may well look into the development of this section. Primarily it was the Indians' dwelling

place. In aboriginal days Sagamore John dwelt there. It lay in the bend of the river below the tributary Menotomy.

All annalists refer to Governor Winthrop's nocturnal adventure thereat. We have heard one insist that it occurred within present Somerville bounds. Possibly it did, yet we think it equally possible to have been on the Medford side, and certainly the Indian relics exhumed in the sixties were on the Medford hill slope. The governor's night vigil is the earliest recorded history we have of this quarter, but long thereafter nothing of special note. On this bleak northwestern exposure there was nothing of an inviting nature, and until within fifty years few dwellers made homes there. The marshes of varying width bordered the Mystic, which was but little used as a waterway, though quite a little fishing was done therein, and enough in its tributary to relegate its Indian name Menotomy to obscurity and substitute the prosaic one of Alewife brook. No road crossed the river between Cradock and Wear bridges until 1857, saving for a few years the Cambridge-Woburn road over the Broughton milldam just above the Menotomy.

Save for a little ship-building above Cradock bridge, the view southerly from Rock hill could have differed little from that of aboriginal days, so far as human habitations were to be seen; only a few scattered dwellings. One was that of Rev. — Smith, whose daughter Abigail became the second "first lady of the land," the wife of President John Adams. But with the opening of the nineteenth century, somewhat by the influence of Medford men and Medford capital, there came one of those artificial features the amateur artist tried to portray, the old waterway known as the Middlesex canal. It passed through Mr. Smith's domain in Medford, across the Charlestown marsh, over and beyond the river into Medford again. This is the first physical change we note in this other corner of Medford. The enterprise in its entirety was, for the time, a great undertaking. As origi-

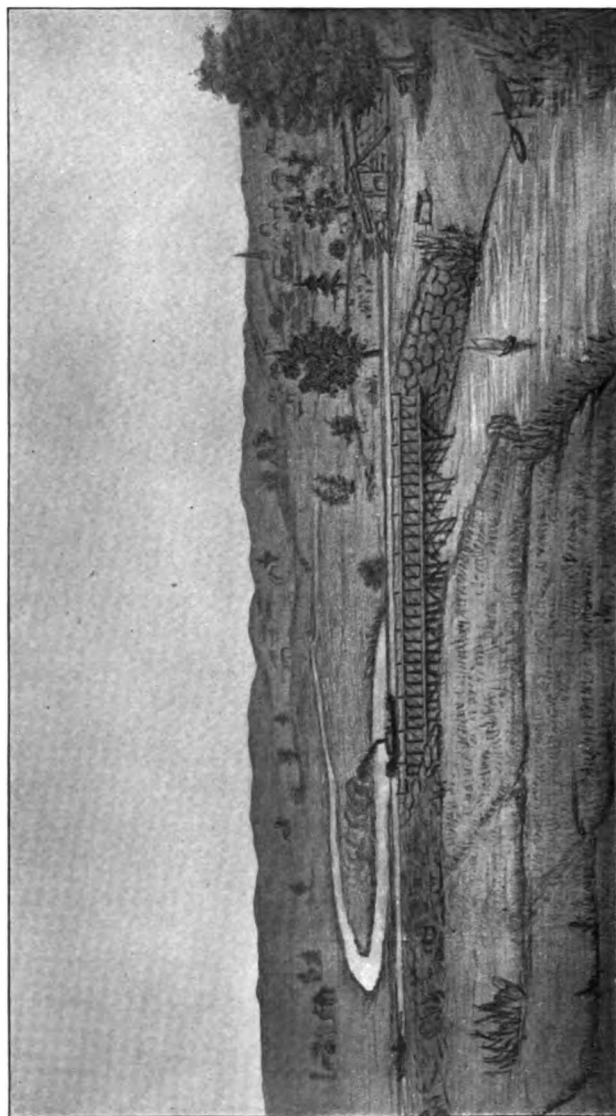
nally planned it would not have been in this quarter at all, as its southern end would have been at the upper end of Medford pond, as it was then called. To modern engineering, a mile of serpentine, shallow river would not be the serious obstruction it was then. So, contrary to the thought of the Medford promoters, the waterway was continued five miles further to Charlestown mill-pond, requiring the "Branch canal," constructed by another corporation, to connect with the river below Main street.

Ten years had elapsed since Governor Hancock signed its charter (so much of an undertaking was it) when the thirty-foot ditch, up-hill from the Merrimack at Chelmsford (Chumpsford they called it then) and down-hill from Billerica to the Charles, was completed. Then the water of Concord river was turned into it, and for fifty years laden boats passed to and fro. Rafts of timber from the forests of New Hampshire, oak timber to the Medford ship-yards, granite from Chelmsford and Tyngsboro, the great columns of the "long market" in Boston, with country produce of various kinds, floated quietly onward to their destination on its placid waters, which, like a silver ribbon, glinted in the sunshine as seen from the hill-tops. By this waterway not only the inland Middlesex towns, but those of New Hampshire, went "down to the sea in ships" from as far north as Concord.

In 1812 what is now a part of the busy city of Manchester sent its first boat to Boston, which was hailed with interest all along the line as well as at its arrival. It had a three mile journey overland prior to its launching in the Merrimack at Squog village, with forty yokes of oxen for motive power. It could lazily float down the river's current, and two horses harnessed tandem took it more quickly and were all the power needed on the canal. Those were busy, but quiet days in this other corner of Medford and Charlestown. The shouts of the boatmen and the sound of the signal-horn, as the locks were approached were all that broke the silence of the retired spot.

But people travelled on the canal too. Read what our





FIRST AQUEDUCT, AND STEAMBOAT, 1818.

Medford school-master Dame wrote thirty-three years ago. See REGISTER, Vol. I, p. 44.

When feverish haste had not yet infected society, a trip over the canal in the passenger-packet, the *Governor Sullivan* must have been an enjoyable experience. Protected by iron rules from the danger of collision, undaunted by squalls of wind, realizing that should the craft be capsized he had nothing to do but walk ashore, the traveller speeding along at the leisurely rate of four miles per hour had ample time for observation and reflection. Seated, in summer under a spacious awning, he traversed the valley of the Mystic skirting the picturesque shores of Mystic pond. Instead of a blurred landscape, vanishing, ghostlike, ere its features could be fairly distinguished, soft bits of characteristic New England scenery, clear cut as cameos, lingered caressingly on his vision — green meadows, fields riotous with blossomed clover, fragrant orchards and quaint old farmhouses, with a background of low hills wooded to their summits. Passing under bridges, over rivers, between high embankments and through deep cuttings, floated up-hill by a series of locks, he marvelled at this triumph of engineering, and if he were a director pictured the manufactures that were to spring up along this great thoroughfare, swelling its revenues for all time.

People also sought pleasure there, as the last issue of the REGISTER notes, and as Medford people recently gone from us have told with pleasant memories.

But the investigating, progressive canal agent and manager of those early days had more rapid transit in view. Horses and oxen were too slow and over in England the power of steam had been utilized, while in Scotland it had been used with but little success on a canal. Up in the backwoods of New Hampshire a curious engine had been developed by an unlettered native genius, years before Fulton made his successful experiment on the Hudson. Canal manager Sullivan, with great visions of future inland navigation by canal and river, had a boat equipped with an engine of this pattern; and one day, a century ago, it came to Medford (as documents prove) and later, all the way to the New Hampshire capital.

If the Medford boys went swimming at "Second beach" in those days, we may be sure there was a grand rush to the tow-path beside the river to see the novel sight.

Novel it certainly was, for in 1818 steamboat service had not obtained permanency in Boston harbor, though the next year a native of Medford (Rev. Charles Brooks) was instrumental in securing such service between Boston and Hingham. But certain it is, that this and other parts of Medford were the scene of the earliest steamboat days.\*

Captain Sullivan was nearly a century ahead of the times, for it is only within a few years that, even with the resources of the great state of New York, steam has been successfully used on its barge canals.

Steam was destined to win on land, and some of the land is in this corner of Medford. One day, two horses slowly towed a canal boat up through Medford to the new town of Lowell which had arisen at the Pawtucket Falls of the Merrimack. That boat bore a new kind of freight, the various parts of the locomotive engine which the genius of Governor Sullivan and of the Medford capitalists had not foreseen. A lot of Walnut-tree hill, and rocks from Winter Hill had been carted onto the end of the bordering marsh making an embankment twenty feet high across it, and bridges built over the canal and river.

The canal boats had been bringing granite blocks down from Chelmsford, and

The strange spectacle was thus presented, perhaps for the first time, of a corporation assisting in the preparation for its own obsequies. (Quoted from Lorin L. Dame.)

One day (June 24, 1835) a curious array of uncouth vehicles came trundling on the iron rails laid on those granite blocks all the way from Lowell to Boston. With much exercise of patience, men unused to such work had assembled at Lowell the various parts of that nondescript freight, and a new era of *transit* and mode of *travel* was inaugurated. We use these words in *order* advisedly, as it is recorded that on the previous day, the *mail* was carried in this new way. Well, Uncle Sam's mail is supposed to have the right of way still. Whether called so then or

\* See REGISTER, Vol. XVII, p. 92.



not, compared with the all day canal ride of twenty-six miles this *was certainly rapid transit*. Within a few years American mechanics were building better engines in the Lowell machine shop and running them at the speed of a mile a minute through this corner of Medford, while Medford's people were accommodated by the little station house down the track called Medford Steps. The artificial features of *water* and *railways* crossing each other, and both crossing the river, changed the natural view in this corner somewhat, yet nature was kind, the tides ebbed and flowed as before, and ere long the embankments of both were grass grown, and the scars man had made were healed. With the coming of the *rail* way, began the *water* way's decadence; which was more pronounced as steam transit extended northward from Lowell. After a few years of profitless competition, the canal succumbed, the aqueduct over and the lock beyond the river began to go to ruin. Picturesque indeed they were, as ruins generally are, and finally, after twenty years of disintegration, gave way to the new thoroughfare of Boston avenue. But in all these years this *corner* had no dwelling places. A resident of West Medford\* used it in the old time way, *i.e.*, for a cow-pasture. One day in 1865, another† came over on the railroad bridge, set up his easel and made the sketch in oil, that well portrays the decaying aqueduct, and which is preserved in the Historical Society's collection. The cows driven homeward by their owner's son are in evidence in the picture, and in the distance is the old house of Henry Dunster and the "spire of Menotomy."

A few years later (1870) Mr. Stevens moved into the new house he had erected in Medford, but his only neighbors were two families (in Somerville) one of whom came with the advent of the Charlestown water works in 1865. Only one had located on all the hill-slope, and that on Winthrop street, and for some years the reservoir on the hill-top was needlessly considered a menace. The growth

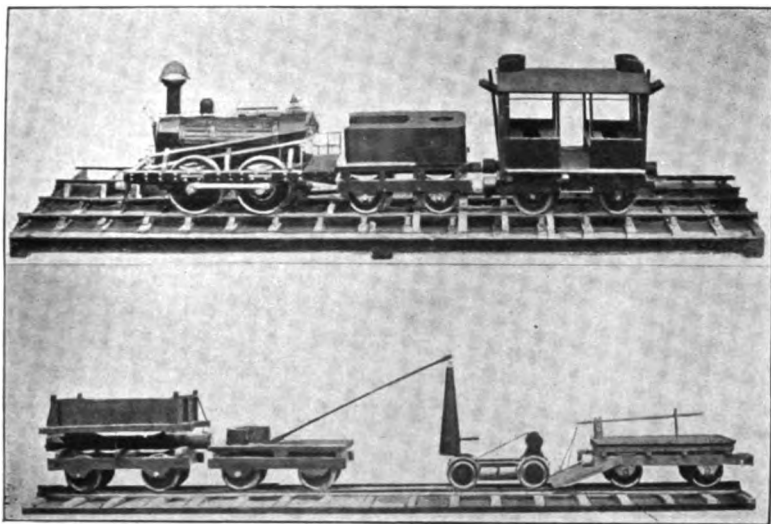
\* Mr. Charles C. Stevens.

† Mr. Nathan Brown.

of that section was very slow, even after Boston avenue was opened in 1873, and which utilized the old abutments and piers built for the canal's crossing. Mr. Stevens still used the space beside the railroad, down to the Somerville line, for pasturage, and erected near his barn a silo, probably the first in Medford.

One day the few dwellers at the Hillside (as it had begun to be called) and West Medford, across the river, awoke to the fact that a new industry was to be established in their midst—one of not the most desirable character. The odors of the vast cesspool which Boston had created by turning the tannery drainage of Winchester and Woburn into the lower Mystic lake were becoming extremely offensive, and here was likely to be another trouble in the Somerville *appendix*. The spur track to the pumping station lay just inside the line, curving away on the old canal bed. Over this, the raw material could come to the unattractive works of the Colonial Chemical Company, just erected for the manufacture of a "depilatory" used in removing the hair from cattle hides. The adjoining marshland formed an excellent dumping-ground for its cinders and refuse. Unlike the human appendix, which is troublesome only to its owner, this caudal appendage of ancient Charlestown, the tail-end, geographically, of modern Somerville, bade fair to, and did, become a menace to adjoining Medford, such as *offensive* manufacturing usually become. For years it had a retarding influence upon the growth of the Hillside section of Medford, as in a few years the plant was enlarged and another building erected, into which a leather working concern came. This was located cornerwise to the railroad and conformed to the old canal's course. It was later doubled in size and another story added to the whole. During the chemical business' stay, a residence was erected for the superintendent, larger and better than the first, thus increasing the Somerville residents to four families.

In the interim between these constructions, at about



**FIRST ENGINE AND CARS ON BOSTON & LOWELL RAILROAD.**



**GRANITE ARCH OVER MYSTIC RIVER.  
BUILT BY ASA SHELDON.**



1895 a new enterprise was launched, this time in Medford bounds—a paper mill. Whether the projectors really thought that the little spring near the Hillside railroad station would add materially to its water supply or furnish power, is uncertain. A dike was built from North street some distance westward, and turning extended to the railroad. In this was a bulkhead and diminutive water wheel. We have no remembrance of its ever being filled with water by the little brook that flowed beside the railroad and through the marsh to the river. An artesian well some two hundred feet deep was drilled in the rock strata; and in more recent years an iron pipe laid from the river bed across the marshland to these works, for supply. A large wooden building with three parallel slated roofs, and an engine house of brick was erected; but the paper manufacture never materialized. This product was to have been wrapping paper, and old newspaper stock was to have been utilized by some new process. After a time the Lee Cycle Co. occupied the eastern corner, but moved away before accomplishing any results.

Next, came Holmes & Smith, establishing the West Medford Laundry, but after a few months moving into other quarters. Then an automobile shop which got no further than the experimental stage. That business was then in its infancy; *horseless carriage* it was then called, and few people foresaw the extent to which it would grow. Next and for a few years, was the Fiber Manufacturing Company, which made pails and cylindrical receptacles of compressed wood fiber. But none of these concerns occupied the entire building, and the last seemed to be doing some business, when the property changed hands. The original chemical works had ceased operation, its plant was demolished and the cinder dump carted away to build sidewalks. About 1910 came the Stone, Timlow Company with an increasing leather business combined with that of wool. In 1912 the four-story brick factory (of mill construction), was erected, largely

in Somerville. Some ten or a dozen feet of it are over in Medford and on this is located the Medford fire alarm whistle. Up to this period the canal bed and banks not obliterated by Boston avenue had remained intact and sometimes held a little water as seen in our illustration. But other changes not industrial had occurred both sides the city boundary line.

The Metropolitan Park Commission made taking of land along the river and built the Parkway. In 1873 Auburn street had crossed the river below "Second beach." Its bridge in a later state of decrepitude was discontinued after the new concrete arch was built, on which both street and parkway cross each other. The latter is but little above marsh level, this made possible by the Cradock dam.

Several houses were removed and shacks (relics of the alewife fishing) were torn down, and a big hole dug in which the new bridge was built and beside it a sewer siphon. Before the arch was completed, and the contractors were ready to move the river, the impatient stream moved in itself, because the new channel had been excavated too near the old for safety. The men and horses (unlike "the hosts of Pharaoh") got out safely, but it took weeks of labor and no little expense to begin anew. With all the widening, deepening and shortening of the river, insufficient material was obtained to fill the old channel, and "Second beach" in its present condition no longer invites the swimming boys. The railroad embankment has been raised several feet and a fine concrete arch built, through which the parkway passes. During its erection, the unique construction of the railroad, *i.e.*, the four parallel walls beneath the rails were revealed. These were utilized in the rock-concrete foundation of the new bridge. It is said that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever." This bridge might be, but for the disfigurement it suffered at the hands of ill mannered youth, of whom no city has reason to be proud, and whose conduct is becoming a public menace.

In the elevation of the tracks, the granite arch (built by Asa Sheldon) disappeared. As there is nothing *lost when we know where it is*, we are confident that it is still intact. The present concrete bridge built over, under, and both sides, serves its purpose, but looks inferior to the other so near. It lacks the character and rugged beauty of the old time structure.

By the "taking" by the Park Commission, the Welch Express stable just beside "Canal bridge" disappeared. Possibly sometime its driven well may be unearthed and utilized — and people wonder how it came there.

In 1902 the street railway was built on Boston avenue, after the present granite arch had been constructed. The three piers of Chelmsford granite, built in 1827 by the canal company, were used in the new bridge over the Menotomy at Broadway, but the boulder abutments of 1800 still remain. But before this time, the Arlington-Lexington sewer was constructed through the ledge beneath the parkway, through the old canal bed, and across the marsh on pile and timber support, and siphons beneath the river below the bridge.

In 1910 the Hillside section had a real estate boom, and the erection of two and three apartment houses, and one story store property went on apace. This continued until war-time, but ceased with prohibitive high cost of building. But one exception should be noticed. Early in 1918 the American Woolen Company acquired the factory site, marsh land and buildings of the Stone Timlow Company and at the present writing is just completing a five story storehouse of reinforced concrete of the most substantial construction. This is entirely on the marsh land and wholly within the Somerville part of the "corner."

This structure is intended mainly for storage of the raw material or "waste," which is brought from the various plants of the concern, to be reworked in the other buildings already mentioned or to be erected. It is the most radical change this part of the old cow-pasture has experienced in all its history. The works, when completed,

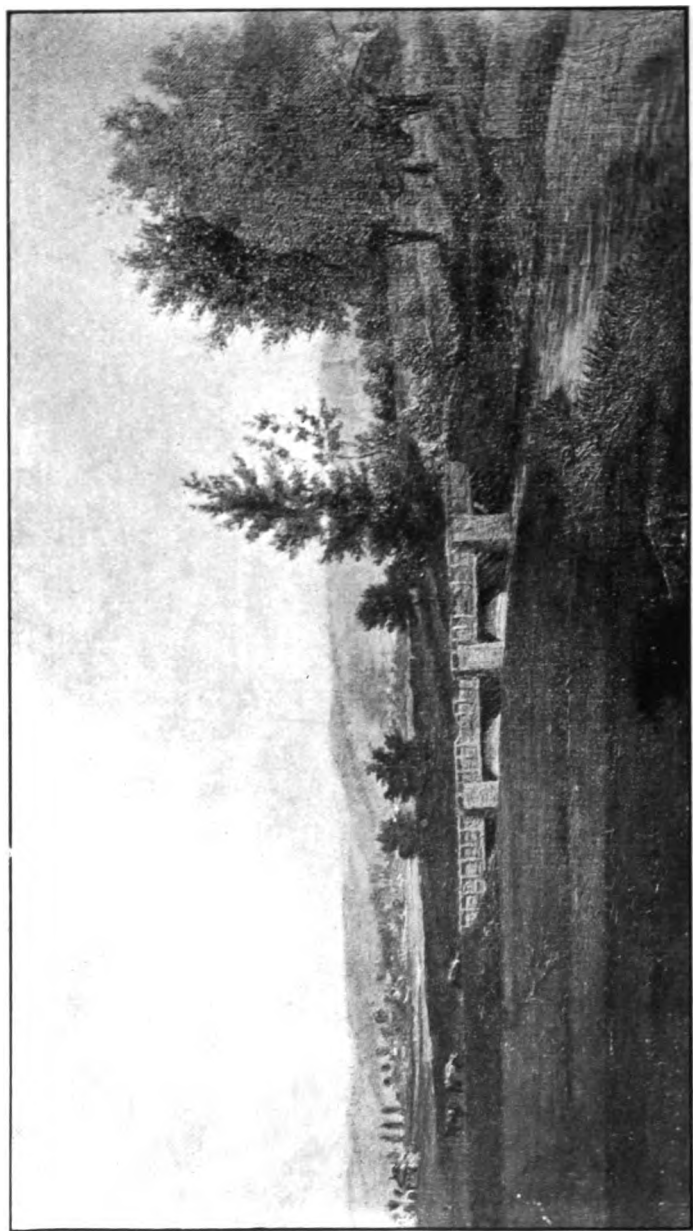
will employ several hundred persons of both sexes, who will require places of abode and education of their children. Thus both Medford and Somerville will find added problems to solve. In years ago, but within memory, conditions had been unsavory in the Somerville corner. A slaughter-house was on the old rangeway for many years. At about 1874 a hill below it was devoted to drying hog-bristles. Later this hill was all dug down and carted away, and to its place was moved the Somerville pest-house. This remained for a period of years beside the serpentine, sluggish Alewife brook. This latter had been receiving the refuse and filth of Tannery brook, with its adjoining marshes a foot *lower* than those a *mile down stream*. Little wonder that malaria was in an alarming increase. One day the writer noticed an unusual stir about the pest-house, and an orderly crowd gathering. Approaching nearer he was in time to see one of the city officials apply the torch thereto, and witnessed its destruction. A little later, the Powder House boulevard and Somerville field were constructed in its locality. Next, the hill-slope up to the zigzag boundary line was built over with dwellings.

While the cow-pasture lines remain intact in our municipal boundaries, we wonder, sometimes, about those in "the thread of the river." Both the Mystic and Menotomy, which divide Somerville from Medford and Arlington, now flow in channels other than those of ten years ago; but as they flow within the Park Commission's jurisdiction, there is little chance of either private or municipal disagreement.

Another allusion to that crude portrayal of this Medford-Somerville corner. While it depicted the "river, canal and railroad," it also showed, hovering overhead, a *balloon*. We wondered quite a little at such portrayal, but of late have queried if it were not really so, for at about those years we find mention in the papers of aeronaut Lauriat and his balloon ascensions. It *may* be that it was even so. Be that as it may, on the evening of







RUINS OF SECOND AQUEDUCT, 1865.

July 4, 1911, the writer witnessed the flight of an airplane over this same quarter, as did the great company assembled about "Somerville field." Contrast this last occasion with the night vigil of Gov. John Winthrop, only a few rods away, on October 11, 1630, if you will. Contrast the horseless carriage, or "steam buggy," first seen in Boston streets in 1866, with the uncounted automobiles that pass over the Mystic Valley parkway in this other corner of Medford and Somerville, think of what may, ere long, be in the air over it, and — finish this story at some later date.

---

### A NEW MEDFORD INDUSTRY.

The American Woolen Company have located their new plant in West Medford for the reclaiming of wool waste, worsted waste, and other by-products of a woolen and worsted mill. We are the first textile manufacturers to take up this branch.

### WOOL PRODUCTION.

Sheep thrive in every civilized country of the world. As far back as history records, herding of sheep and growing of wool have claimed the attention of the human race. It has always been recognized that wool possesses certain qualities for which no substitute can be found. No other fibre has the spinning and felting properties combined with health and warmth giving characteristics so necessary for the protection of the human body.

For wools used in the manufacture of wearing apparel we, in competition with the rest of the world, must bid in markets of Australia, New Zealand, Argentine, Uruguay and British South Africa. These are the world's producing areas where the clip is not used for domestic manufacturing, but is available for export to countries which have the equipment to convert this wool into the finished products.

Nineteen sixteen was the world's greatest year for production of wool, with the following amounts produced for export. Australia, New Zealand, 644,000,000 greasy or 353,000,000 scoured; British South Africa, 157,000,000 greasy or 52,000,000 scoured; Argentine, Uruguay, 409,000,000 greasy or 245,000,000 scoured.

#### WHAT SHODDY IS.

In the popular conception, shoddy typifies that which is undesirable. The word is a synonym of inferiority, subterfuge and deceit. The public is accustomed to condemn where it does not understand, and it seems desirable that some light should be shed to clear up this misconception in the use of shoddy. The word shoddy is derived from *shod*, meaning a parting or separation.

Before cloth can be woven the wool must first be spun into yarn which is either woollen or worsted, depending both on process and the raw materials used. Worsted yarn must be made from virgin wool which is combed so the fibres lie parallel along the length of the yarn. Such yarn can be utilized in a fabric where strength and durability are desired rather than warmth and imperviousness. Woollen yarn is made from wool fibres, and instead of combing, the process of carding is used, which interlaces, mixes and crisscrosses the fibre to the maximum possible. Such a yarn is more lofty, and permits felting and locking of the individual strands of yarn when they are woven, thereby producing a cloth which is less porous than worsted cloth but not necessarily so strong. It is not only desirable that woollen cloth be made from yarn which has both long and short fibres, but it is essential that such be the case if a compact, airtight fabric is to be produced, the longer fibre providing the strength and the shorter ones filling up the spaces and binding the contiguous yarns in a piece of cloth.

The first by-product of a worsted mill is *noils*. These are short wool fibres combed out of wool to be spun into a worsted yarn. Noils form the most important raw

stock in a woolen mill. As the wool progresses through its various stages in the manufacture of cloth, minor wastes appear, such as card waste, flyings, and strippings, and although this wool fibre has not been subjected to wear and tear of usage, it can be only utilized in a woolen mill, as it is neither virgin wool nor noils and is classed as shoddy.

Real shoddy, however, as it is understood, consists of fragments of cloth or other wool material which has to be picked preparatory to its use on woolen cards. From the tailor's clips which are left after his patterns are cut, is derived an important source of shoddy. Shoddy is as good or as bad as the cloth from which it is derived. So on down the scale to frayed and worn-out stockings, which have been discarded to the ragman; to the cotton and wool mixtures which have to be carbonized and neutralized to eliminate the vegetable matter; these are the sources of the shoddy supply.

If it were not for re-worked wool there would not be enough wool in the world to clothe the human race.

GEO. M. WALLACE.

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#### ABIJAH THOMPSON'S "GLEANINGS."

We are gladly presenting a communication, inadvertently overlooked by a former editor, and which has but recently come to our notice. Its author, Abijah Thompson, was, at the time of writing and for some years, a member of the Medford Historical Society, and its library received many accessions from him. He was a native of Woburn, his ancestors being early settlers there. The locality which he describes has not altogether outgrown the name of *Thompsonville*.

Two brooks converged there, and his forebears conserved the water power, establishing a leather business. The oak-tanned leather of A. Thompson & Co. had a wide reputation for its standard quality. His uncle Abijah, for whom he was named, was the senior partner

and bore the military title of General, though it was acquired in "the piping times of peace." His father, Benjamin Franklin, removed to South Woburn, establishing himself there in the leather business. He also had a title, as he was chosen deacon of the Congregational Church, which was formed in this new section of Woburn, which in 1850, with slices of West Cambridge and Medford territory, became the town of Winchester.

Deacon Benjamin Thompson continued in office and in business until 1864, and was succeeded in the latter by his sons Abijah and Stephen. The former was especially interested in historic matters, and paid much attention to the preservation of the annals of his native and later home towns. We recall that in the '60s he planned for the erection of a residence beside the Aberjona, laying out a miniature park, planting trees and building bridges across the stream. But for some reason he ceased work there and erected a pleasant dwelling-place in the west part of the town and there resided for many years. In the former place he was years in advance of the times; but present "Manchester field" is the site of his father's factory, and the improved Aberjona, with its island and bridges, is a part of the Metropolitan park system.

When the Winchester Historical Society was in operation he was interested in its work. For some years he was mainly instrumental in publishing the *Winchester Press*. The weekly issues of that paper contained many articles written by him, or secured by him from others, which form a highly interesting narrative and trustworthy basis of a town history.\*

This must have been a labor of love on the part of Abijah Thompson, appreciated by some of his townsmen — and unappreciated by many others.

The Winchester Historical Society is now inoperative, but during its active days published two volumes which contain much of interest, including papers read at its

\* In the library of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society these articles, clipped from the *Press*, are carefully arranged in order, mounted on blank paper and suitably bound in book form under the title of *History of Winchester, Mass.*

meetings. The *Press* ceased publication after a few years, but during its issue, through Mr. Thompson's efforts, preserved much of local history. He doubtless experienced some pleasure and satisfaction in so doing, and his "Gleanings" in this issue of the REGISTER shows that he did not confine his effort and interest to his home town. But at last, as the burden of years was upon him, he gave up his congenial tasks. His last days were of physical weakness, and spent with relatives in our city, where he recently passed away.

Who will take up his favorite work and fill the blanks in his "Gleanings" of nearly twenty years ago?"

---

### GLEANINGS.

Among the pleasant memories of the past, are many scenes that transpired during our youthful days. A striking figure on the stage of recollection is Nathan Childs, the village baker, who had his shop in the good old town of Medford. He drove his cart through the streets from door to door, and continued on through the neighboring towns. In Woburn town, on Pleasant street, there stood a cluster of houses, at the junction of two streets, one of which led directly to Lexington—that town of historic fame—while the other wound its way to Burlington, the town that protected Hancock and Adams, while the British soldiers marched to Concord.

The coming and going of Nathan Childs to and from this little group of neighbors, was like the old clock that stood in the corner of the family room—tick, tick, strike, all the day long, always on time. Nathan Childs had an eye to business—he was a friend to the old and the young. His cart was not unlike other bakers' carts, while the jingle of the old sleigh bells was heard from afar. He was always ready to share his seat with one or more, and was sure to treat them to his good old-fashioned molasses gingerbread.

One day, a new sound was heard in the distance—music came floating through the air, when lo and behold! there appeared a new cart painted in gaudy colors, a new

horse and a new harness. Attached to the saddle was a chime of bells discoursing silvery music to the ear. Painted upon the cart, in imitation of his shop, was the partially open door, over which we read NATHAN CHILDS, BAKER. There was the painted sash and the green blinds, the shingle roof and the old red brick chimney, all as natural as life, and mounted upon his seat, sat Nathan Childs, monarch of all he surveyed. Keith of Keith's Theatre fame, in this our day, with his advertising scheme of the four-in-hand with its numberless chimes of bells ringing through the streets, is far behind the times. Nathan Childs led the van, while those of today simply follow on. On the muster field, at the cattle shows, and at the auctions, Nathan Childs was sure to be found. On the day that Massachusetts went to Concord and fought there the great battle for the election of President William Henry Harrison, Nathan Childs was seen in that countless throng that followed the great ball as it rolled on, while in the rear came the log cabins, the hard cider and the striped pig. Nathan Childs gained the field, and upon it, he rang out his chime of bells. The country lads and lasses were soon eating that good old-fashioned molasses gingerbread.

One day Nathan Childs disappeared — he never came again. On looking for his epitaph, we find in the History of Medford the following tribute by the historian:

“Mr. Childs continued to sell bread in the neighboring towns, for a long time. Many of our Medford people have pleasant memories of the genial countenance and kind words of Nathan Childs, the deaf baker, who went from house to house, with his ear trumpet in hand, bound to hear precisely what his customers ordered, and sure to fill all orders.”

Who can fill the blanks?

NATHAN CHILDS.

*b.*

*d.*

Married

*b.*

*d.*

Lies buried in

ABIJAH THOMPSON.



### A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Shall we have a League of Nations,  
To uphold the cause of right?  
Shall we have a League of Nations,  
To efface the sway of might?  
Shall we have a League of Nations,  
Peace and justice to instill?

With one accord the whole world answers,  
"A League of Nations? Yes, we will! We will! We will!"

Shall we have a League of Nations,  
Save for home, our boys, our men?  
Shall we have a League of Nations,  
Sheathe the sword, and wield the pen?  
Shall we have a League of Nations,  
Arbitrate, and cease to kill?

With one accord the whole world answers,  
"A League of Nations? Yes, we will! We will! We will!"

Shall we have a League of Nations,  
To protect the great and small?  
Shall we have a League of Nations,  
All for one, and one for all?  
Shall we have a League of Nations,  
Cherished ideals to fulfill?

With one accord the whole world answers,  
"A League of Nations? Yes, we will! We will! We will!"

*Copyright, 1919, Edith Rejean Orne.*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE "MERCURY."

Friday, February 22, 1884.

The town hall question is likely to be brought up at the March meeting, with a prospect of receiving a fair hearing from all citizens prepared to consider the reasons for or against this important project. If there is evident need of a new hall — and who has heard an expression contrary to it? — why should we not at this time take the necessary steps toward securing the desired object? What is in the way? Can't the town afford it? Will it be in better condition five or ten years hence? As to location, public opinion quite prominently sets strongly in the direction of the Dr. Swan estate, now owned by the town. It is so near the square that the argument of the necessity of placing it exactly thereon loses much of its force, as everybody knows there is no overpowering reason why the square should be considered the only fit place for the edifice. In the interest of economy, we ought to decide this prominent and beautiful situation to be our *best situation*.

at Medford I saw my portly pastor coming, looking through his glasses, first one side and then the other, as was his wont going up the broad aisle. I dropped my axe to welcome him, and soon found he had a gospel of hope for me. He had taken counsel, and came to tell me he thought I might—yes, *I might*—enter the ministry.

That spot of ground is still sacred. I have been to it as to the Mecca of my first hope. All signs of the old ship-yard, to a stranger's eye, were gone; but I knew the old landmarks, and found the spot where I dropped the broad axe to hear the glad tidings that opened to me a new life. I was glad to stand there and feel something of that hour come back to me through the vista of half a century.

The "portly pastor" was Rev. Caleb Stetson, the Unitarian minister of Medford, and the young workman probably attended his ministrations in the old third meeting-house. If old Ship street was alive then, it was more so ten years later, when another clergyman of Medford made his observations and compiled his wonderful list of Medford ships. No wonder that Mr. Tilden thought it "desolate" at his return as he contrasted it with the times when two hundred and fifty men were there employed.

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#### A CORRECTION.

In Vol. XXII, p. 19, and twelfth line, is an error we wish to correct. Instead of *John*, read *George Gill*. We regret the necessity of thus writing, but hasten to do so in the interest of accuracy.

The REGISTER aims to be a reliable chronicle of matters of Medford interest, one that can be safely quoted.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is with pleasure that we announce that the Society's files of the various papers published in Medford since 1896 are now available for consultation at our rooms. Also, that by the courtesy of the *Mercury* its prior file from its first publication, though not wholly complete, may be found in our library.

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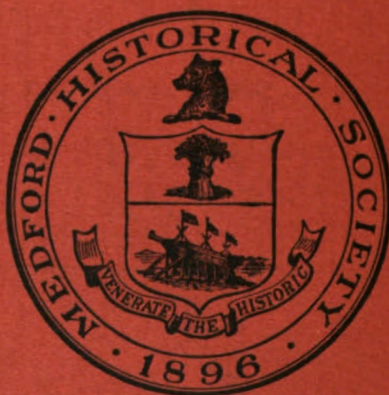


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Vol. XXII.]

[No. 3.]

# HISTORICAL REGISTER



JULY, 1919

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May 5, 1931

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### FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in  
the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars for  
the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_





HOUSE OF DR. SIMON TUFTS, LATER OF TURELL TUFTS, ESQ.  
(Corner High and Forest Streets.) Built about 1709 and razed 1867.



# The Medford Historical Register.

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## MEDFORD A CENTURY AGO—1819.

WE are led to this retrospect by reading the names of Medford men who in 1819 formed a "long-name society." This was the "Medford Association for Discountenancing Intemperance and Its Kindred Vices." There were ninety-six of them, twenty-eight being marked as "officers,"—and the list is a notable one, being headed by the Governor of the Commonwealth, John Brooks, and the minister of the town, David Osgood, D.D. This list is worthy of preservation, and was furnished by the late Francis A. Wait, who says in a later communication:

A few years ago I saw a pamphlet gotten up about 1835, and signed by men in Medford who were alarmed at the increase of drunkenness in the town.

Certainly, Medford was *wet* (to borrow the modern term) a century ago, but probably not more so than other towns not engaged in the business of distillation. Now, that after a century of agitation and effort, not only Medford but the entire country by national legislation and state ratification is *dry*, it is of interest to know something of the Medford of 1819 and its conditions—physical, educational, social and otherwise. The published histories give but little specific information, while the Tufts map required by the Legislature of 1784, probably correct in scale, and, filling requirements, is a model of pathetic brevity. More elaborate, but incorrect in some ways is the Hales' map, made about 1820,\* and showing the few roads and something of topography. By the former we find location of the meeting-house and mills,

\*See REGISTER, Vol. I, p. 133.

but little information relative to housing or business. No newspaper here then, and the bi-weeklies of Boston had but rare allusion to Medford matters.

One hundred and eighty-nine years had rolled away since the first settlement of the town, and yet Medford in 1819, separated from the metropolis of New England by but one town, and but five miles distant, had less than 1,500 inhabitants. It had been hard hit by the Revolution, but in the first decade of the nineteenth century, with the establishment of ship-building, there was an increase of 316 in the population, but in the second decade but 34. If the increase of population was small in those latter years, the reverse was true of the new industry, for while 16 vessels were built in the first decade, 60 were built in the second, though there were but three in 1819. In that year James Monroe was president of the United States and Gen. John Brooks of Medford governor of Massachusetts, having been elected for the fourth time, receiving 215 of his townsmen's votes, out of a total of 240 cast.

The outline of Medford's territory was larger then than now; its social, educational and civic center was the meeting-house, its business center the "market-place" where the "country road" from Boston divided north to Woburn and east to Malden and Salem, and were the principal public roads (not given names as yet), though two turnpike roads had been opened fourteen years before and a canal a few years earlier.

Does anyone wish to know what the old town looked like in 1819? Let them look carefully at the few old-time dwellings still remaining, the ancient graveyard and distil-house, the pictures of the third meeting-house, brick schoolhouses and the old Tufts residence, substitute a country road for those of today, eliminate all motive power but horses and oxen, and light other than sunlight and candles, and turn to an authentic source of information—the old town record book. Squire Abner Bartlett had been for some time town clerk. His pen-

manship was stiff and bristling, and unlike the proverbial character of lawyers' writing, is legible. The paper is rough and strong and the ink unfading. The book itself has been in recent years re-bound. The obliging city clerk will be at some inconvenience to produce it for your inspection and will jealously safeguard it, as in duty bound he should.

Medford's town officers were three selectmen, three assessors, two constables, three fish committee, three overseers of the poor, three highway surveyors, three tythingmen, three auditors, three fence viewers, six fire-wards, eight surveyors of lumber, eight measurers of wood, and ten field-drivers, which with the town clerk, treasurer and clerk of the market, totals sixty-one men to administer the affairs of a little town of about twenty square miles of territory and 1400 inhabitants. Probably there was duplication enough to reduce the number to fifty. It may be noticed there was no school board especially named.

The annual town meeting was held in March, hence usually styled the "March meeting," and adjourned from time to time as the amount of public business required. At that of 1819, Hon. Timothy Bigelow, who had the experience and distinction of eleven terms as speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, was moderator. Dr. Luther Stearns, Thatcher Magoun and Nathan Adams, three of Medford's prominent citizens, were chosen selectmen, Joseph Manning, treasurer, and Reuben Richards, clerk of the market. These names are evidence that it was a notable and efficient board, as also those that follow in the long list of other officers shown. It is recorded that ere adjournment to April 1, the town clerk was directed to "put the law in force against persons chosen who do not qualify." Then follow several pages of certificates of qualification. At the April meeting the town fixed the assessors' pay at \$2.00 per day, and \$1.50 to the constable for warning town meeting. The town clerk was allowed \$30 for his

services for the year and the overseers of the poor the same amount. A man on the highway was paid \$1.25 per day. A man with a team consisting of a cart and a good yoke of oxen had \$2.50 per day, and a day's work was to be ten hours.

The town meeting was held in the town's third meeting-house (which was the last to be warmed only by the heat of debate or the parson's sermons), and entered in its record is the vote to allow Dr. Osgood, the minister, \$200 to purchase his wood for the ensuing year.

The eighth article of the warrant was about painting the meeting-house, and this was referred to a committee of six for consideration. Four days later the town met again, and then a committee reported something that sheds much educational light on the Medford of 1819:

The town contains 203 families or householders. . . . The law requires two masters. . . . There are 159 boys over seven years, and 158 girls . . . and 117 of both sexes over four and under seven that require to be taught in summer by women.

There were two private schools or academies in town (those of Dr. Stearns and Miss Hannah Swan), but some of their students came from other towns. This record says "that two schools for those younger children must be established, one at Brooks' corner [High and Woburn streets] and the other on 'Mill Lane, so-called' [Riverside avenue.]"

The above figures are interesting as showing the average Medford family of a century ago as being of five children, and probably as many over seventeen as under four. But the needed schoolhouse at "Brooks' corner" remained a need for twenty years more. The meeting of 1819 required four gatherings. At the last (May 5) Jonathan Porter was chosen town clerk. His handwriting is clear and graceful and inclined a little to embellishment. The committee reported that it was expedient to paint the meeting-house, and the town referred the matter to them for execution.

One more item of that record is especially interesting,

*i.e.*, on annual budget, the town voted to raise for current expenses for 1819, the sum of \$4,500, basing its action on the expenditure of the preceding year of \$4,408.77. Of this latter amount \$1,284.86 (almost one-third of the entire amount) was expended "for the poor in and out of the poor-house."

While it is still true that "the poor always ye have with you," and it was to Medford's credit that they have been cared for, yet the above proportion seems unnaturally excessive, and in looking for the cause, thinking men were "alarmed" and formed that society with the long name a century ago.

Thus far we have quoted from the town meeting records, now turn to those of the selectmen written by the clerk in another volume. At their first meeting in 1819, on January 22, we find:

Voted, That the following names be posted up in the houses and shops of all Taverns, Innholders and Retailers within said town as a list of the names of persons reputed common drunkards, common tipplers, spending their time and estate in such houses, to wit: [Here follow seven names which in courtesy we omit.]

The selectmen were required thus to do.

As the annual town meeting was in March, the fiscal year ended on February 15, but a century ago the reports were not printed for distribution. In our search for information we had overlooked the fact that Mr. Brooks in his history had presented the disbursements of 1818 as in contrast with those of 1855, the year of the history's publication. We reproduce the same for comparison with that in the town record from which we have quoted:

From Brooks' History, p. 119:		Records of Town:	
Minister's salary and		For the minister	533.33
grant of wood	500.00	Poor in and out of poor-	
Poor	1,225.46	house	1,227.88
Paid Charlestown for		House rent for the poor	24.00
Paupers	241.00	Sunday School mis-	
Roads	507.63	tresses for poor	32.98
Schools	740.00	Roads and highway bills	488.87

Abatement of Taxes	258.47	Schools	750.00
Town Officers	150.00	Abated taxes	54.94
Collecting Taxes	270.00	Town clerk	30.00
Expenses opposing new road	150.00	Assessors	214.00
Interest on town debt	141.00	Collector's fee	234.52
For injury of horse on drawbridge	50.00	Expenses new road to Woburn	215.50
Sexton 25.00 Miscellaneous expenses 94.56	119.56	Interest on town debt	141.00
		Great bridge	256.17
		Miscellaneous Expenses	29.37
		Allowed S. Butters	10.00
		Cleaning and repair town clock	16.00
		Hose of engine and town pump	8.00
		Trees in burying ground	13.24
		Land damage to widen road	38.97
		Grant made the singers	100.00
	<u>4,353.12</u>		<u>4,418.77</u>

According to Mr. Brooks, the item of support of poor is even larger than that we quote from the town record. But there was still another outlay of which no mention is made. The town had, forty years before from Thomas Seccomb, a gift, the interest of which in perpetuity is applied to the relief of the poor. The selectmen's records of 1819 show the sum of \$42.00, in sums of one and two dollars, distributed among twenty-three persons, and also a contribution of \$96.00 more, in sums of three to five dollars for the same purpose.

James T. Floyd was the sexton, and the selectmen allowed his bill for setting glass and painting bell frame, in all \$29.00; but we fancy the sexton's bill was larger the following year, for in the winter of 1819-20 came an innovation in the old meeting-house. On October 29 the selectmen approved Moses Merrill's bill for cast-iron stoves and funnel, \$20.00. Just think of it, all you who have furnace repairs to make just a century later—a heating plant for \$20.00! But how about \$200 for Parson Osgood's supply of wood for the same year, deducted from the \$500 salary? Even with the high price

of coal in 1919, the average householder today would deem it a hardship to pay \$200 for a year's fuel, to say nothing of spending two-fifths of his income for warmth.

Seth Mayo was one of the tavern-keepers and the town paid him \$3.00 for the use of a room for the selectmen.

Jonathan Brooks was paid \$2.00 for perambulating the town line beside Stoneham. It was a woodland walk, and is today, but it costs more.

Luther Stearns and Jonathan Brooks had the disposal of fishing rights in the river for shad and alewives between Medford and Charlestown. (This was from second beach to Wear bridge.)

James Ford surveyed eleven tons and fourteen feet of pine timber at ninepence per ton, and \$1.40 paid his fee. Probably this was for the "great bridge."

Timothy Bigelow seems to have been the town's banker, as the selectmen directed the payment of \$99.00 interest on \$1,650, loaned by him to the town.

As the educational matters were administered by the selectmen we find:

To Eliza Wait teacher 26 wks 4.00 including board	104.00
Wm. Bradbury boarding Miss Eliza Gray schoolmistress	
May 3 to Oct. 3. 26 wks	52.00
Eliza Gray teaching at the schoolhouse 26 wks	52.00
Rhoda Turner, use and improvement of room for a schoolroom 6 mos.	25.00
To Jeduthun Richardson the 3 following accts.	
For the services of his daughters Sally & Harriet keeping school May 1 to Oct. 30 25 wks 3½ d. a 2.00 per wk	51.40
use of room for school	20.00
for boarding teachers 25 wks 5½ d.	51.57
	<hr/> 122.97

By the above it appears that the town paid the teachers' board for the Sundays before and after the summer term, and it was all in the family at "Brooks' corner,"—and the old house, having taken a new lease of life, is still in evidence.

Rhoda Turner's was probably at "Mill lane, so called," and all of the above tallies with the action of the town.

Here is a breeze from the shipyards:

Voted to allow Abner Bartlett's account for money paid for chips and wood for school.

Great stuff for kindling and stove wood were the chips and blocks from the shipyards, better than the "bag-wood" of today.

In the days when the sea was old  
And the builders lithe and young,  
From timber that gleamed like gold  
This carpet of chips was flung.

Feb 1, Voted, to allow Rebecca Blanchard's account for schooling a child of Rufus P [——] 24 weeks to Oct 31 last year \$3.00

She was one of the "schoolmistresses for poor children." At the same meeting "13 in all" men were approved as "enginemen," and it was

Voted to allow Daniel Symms five dollars in full of his account for 46 ladder dogs. . . .

Daniel Wait \$25.17 for ladders and painting cases.

This was in the days of the "Grasshopper," and the fire department wasn't motorized.

And who shall say that Medford did not encourage the fine arts? We think it did, for on February 11:

Voted to draw on the treasury for one hundred dollars payable to Nathan Adams Jr. Treasurer of Medford Harmonic Social Singing Society, agreeable to vote of the town in [blank] last, and request of said Society.

But who shall say the money was ill spent, even though Squire Bartlett forgot to fill in the blank space with the date of the town's action? This other long-name society was probably the choir that sang in the old meeting-house. No pipe-organ in Medford then. We quote Mr. Brooks, p. 492, under date of 1810:

Medford had a large choir of volunteer singers under the faithful Ephraim Bailey. On Sunday, once, the pitch-pipe set the pitch so high that the whole choir broke down. Still Bailey tried on the second verse and again broke down. General Brooks



could not endure it any longer; and he rose in his pew, beckoned to Bailey, and said, "Hadn't you better take another pitch?" Bailey replied "No sir; I guess we can get through it."

This Ephraim Bailey must have been possessed of a strong voice, as he was qualified and "approved to sell goods at public vendue and outcry," *i.e.*, an auctioneer. He was constable and warned town-meeting, was also collector of taxes—not elected or appointed, but purchasing the position by bidding the lowest percentage.

Samuel Wiatt was in 1819 on "Apr 1 recommended as a suitable person to keep tavern in the house lately occupied by Seth Mayo," and on "Apr 3 Isaac Blanchard in house lately occupied by his father [Hezekiah Jr] deceased."

Medford had in 1821 (See REGISTER, Vol. XIX, p. 80) 152½ houses (probably in 1819 less than 150) and four distilleries. How many of these houses remain today we cannot say with certainty, though we are sure of twenty westward from Medford square. Two of the distilleries remain intact but devoted to other uses. All four, with by far the larger proportion of the dwellings, were east and south of the old market-place. Within our own recollection there has been an occasional demolition, though mainly there has by careful repair been a survival of the fittest.

We have presented an abstract covering features of the town administration of 1819. We may read between the lines and contrast the Medford of that day and its conditions with those of 1919. One thing will stand out noticeably, the disproportionate burden that Medford was bearing then in the support of its poor—and we may well ask the cause. That ill conditions existed, and that they were evident to the thinking men of that day is seen in the formation of this society with a long name. It is by no means likely that many of those ninety-six were total abstainers, perhaps none, but they took a step in the right direction. Many were sensible of the gravity of the situation after fifteen years had

elapsed. One feature of that later period was a stock company to conduct a hotel on temperance principles, but which was not a financial success. But even such a venture was not proposed in 1819.

Just how successful this "Association" was in discountenancing intemperance we may not say, but one thing is certain, that the continued efforts of the Washingtonian and succeeding organizations, the agitations of pulpit and platform, the pledging of youth to total abstinence, the widespread efforts of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and public instruction helped create public sentiment which resulted in national prohibition.

In 1819 Medford began to rouse from its slumber and standstill. It then had but four public buildings: the meeting-house, schoolhouse, poor-house and powder-house, the latter two being the best and nearly new. The last still remains, though but little known. It now owns no *meeting-house*, as church and state are separated, but it needs one, seriously, for civic use. It is of interest that in 1819 Patrick Roach asked for the use of the schoolhouse for religious worship but was unsuccessful. Did this presage the parting of the ways which came four years later? We have never heard mention of this, but it is on the record.

With that parting began a new era in the religious, educational and social status of Medford. The new road to Woburn the town had opposed was built and others followed. A town hall became a necessity, and new schoolhouses, but the new houses of worship were not as before a municipal expense, being built by the respective church societies worshipping therein.

In the thirty-five years following 1819 to the writing of the history of Medford in '55, population had increased 200 per cent. and annual outlay seven-fold, and a town debt in larger proportions. But the item of the relief of the poor had fallen to about one-seventh, and who can say but that the service and relief was as efficient?

There is much of interest in the study of the old sta-

tistics. It is not our intention here to compare them with those of 1919, but it is pertinent to inquire whither we are tending.

### MEDFORD ASSOCIATION, 1819

#### For discountenancing Intemperance and its kindred Vices

John Brooks	Caleb Brooks	Thomas Cox Jun
David Osgood	Patrick Roach	Asa Sprague
Ebenezer Hall*	George Cook	A Bartlett*
Watts Turner	John Symmes Jun	John Howe*
John Symmes*	Martin Burrage	Jeduthun Richard-
John Bishop	Gershom Cutter*	son*
Nathaniel Hall*	Ephriam Hall	Jonathan Porter*
Jonathan Brooks*	Gilbert Brooks	Joseph Lamson
Luther Stearns*	Galen James*	Cornelius Tufts
Nathan Wait*	Thomas Calif	Henry Withington
James Darby	Benjamin Pratt Jun	Nathan Adams*
William Ward*	Nathan Bryant	Joseph Manning
Benjamin Tufts*	Benjamin Noyes	J Swan*
Richard Hall	James T Floyd Jr	Daniel Symmes
Levi Cutler	Seth Branford	Benjamin Hill
William Rodgers*	Phillips Rogers	Stilman Clark
Samuel Kidder	Stephen Sprague	Moses Merrill
Nehemiah Wait	Andrew Perkins	Henry Reed
Charles L. Hall	Charles Johnson	Noah Johnson*
Joseph Wyman Jr*	Jonas Manning	Seth Mayo
Thomas Floyd	Arron Blanchard	Nathaniel Jaquith
Amhurst Joselyn	Isaac Sprague*	Timothy Bigelow
Joseph Gardner	John Blanchard	D Hall*
James W. Brooks	Francis Kidder	Andrew Bigelow
Thatcher Magoun*	Andrew Blanchard*	Jonathan Harrington
Ebenezer Hall Jr*	Nathaniel Bishop	Edward Bradbury
George Fuller*	John P Clisby*	David Buckman 2nd
Darius Wait*	D Swan	Marshall Symmes
James T Floyd	Anthony Hatch	Nathan Adams Jun*
Elias Tufts	Benjamin Floyd Jun	Isaac Floyd
Timothy Brigden	Loveman Buel	John T White
Timothy Rich	Abijah Kendall	Theophilus Boyd
Benjamin Floyd	Gilbert Blanchard 2d	Jonathan Warner

\*Those with this mark are officers for the present year

### THE MEDFORD "SYREN."

Among the interesting reminders of busy times in Medford is the rigged model of the clipper ship *Syren* (the 449th in the list and the first of those built in the year 1851, and in the yard of Sprague and James) which may be seen at the Historical Building.

Within two years there has come to the Society a photograph of the *Syren* lying at a wharf; also from Mr. Shepherd Brooks a photograph of the *Ellen Brooks*, 480 tons, built by George Fuller for R. D. Shepherd in 1834, the 197th in the list of Medford-built ships. These are especially interesting. The *Syren* is given as 1,050 tons in the list in Brooks' history.

In 1851 Frederic Gleason of Boston began the weekly publication of *Gleason's Pictorial*, probably the first of its kind. Its illustrations were wood cuts, as it was long before the modern half-tone process. An examination of its pages is well worth making, and therein we find one of the *Syren* and reproduce here the text. Vol 1, p. 149, (July 5, 1851):

#### THE CLIPPER SHIP "SYREN."

Our artist has sketched for us here a fine maritime scene, representing the clipper ship *Syren* as she passes Boston (lower) Light. The *Syren* is owned by Silsbee, Pitman & Silsbee, of Salem, is commanded by Capt. George Silsbee, and intended for the California and East India trade. Her dimensions are as follows: length 180 feet, beam 36 ft depth of hold 22 feet; and altogether her model is of the most perfect and beautiful character in outline, and she can hardly escape being one of the finest bottoms afloat. The *Syren* was built by Mr. Taylor, at Medford, in the most thorough and substantial manner, and possesses all the modern marine improvements. Our artist has sketched her with everything set that can draw, and right merrily she is bowling over the waters of the outer channel, a perfect picture of nautical neatness and beauty.

As a matter of current history we note that at the present time there is being built on the bank of the Mystic in Somerville (next Wellington bridge) a vessel of about the same size as the *Syren*, perhaps a little larger. Medford men are interested in her construction,

and the spot is somewhere near where Governor Winthrop built the *Blessing of the Bay*. She is to be schooner rigged, with four masts, and is now approaching completion. We hope to see her launching, the first on the Mystic since 1873.

### A ROMANCE OF OLD MEDFORD.

By permission the REGISTER presents a romantic story recently published by the Danvers Historical Society, first quoting from Cutter's History of Arlington, p. 72 :

From a list of funerals in Medford is the following: "1775 Apr 21, Mr Henry Putnam slain at Menotomy by the enemy on their retreat from Concord on the 19th inst. He was about 70 years."

Miss Wild in "Medford in the Revolution," styles him "a veteran of Louisburg, . . . though because of age exempt," and quotes, "he showed his Putnam spunk and went with the rest."

### HENRY PUTNAM'S RIDE.

When Mr. Henry Putnam was about twenty-two years of age he went from Medford, Mass., into the state of Connecticut, about one hundred miles, at that day a very long journey. Night coming on, he stopped at a farm house of inviting appearance, in the town of Bolton, and asked for entertainment for himself and horse, as he travelled on horseback. This request was cordially received, and the hospitalities of the house were freely given him.

In the family circle was Miss Hannah Boardman, the oldest daughter of his host. Mr. Putnam became interested at once in the young lady, of whom he dreamed much during the night. In the morning he told the story of his love, and in return Miss Hannah gave her consent to become his wife. Acting on the principle that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and the fact that a long ride was between him and his home, he decided to live only in the company of his lady-love. So he arranged to make her father's house his home until the slow laws of Connecticut would allow the twain to become one; but in due time they were married.

The next morning after the wedding, Mrs. Putnam was presented by her father and friends with a horse, a lady's saddle and other travelling equipment; also two cows and twelve sheep.

Now came the tug of love — separation from home and all its endearments — fond caresses and hearty farewells were exchanged,

and the youthful bride of sixteen, with the husband, each mounted on the saddle, took up the march for her new home in the old Bay State, driving the cows and sheep before them.

The above was (as we understand) reprinted in 1877 from information given by the lady herself when about ninety years of age. "Henry Putnam was the youngest son of Deacon Eleazer Putnam [of Danvers] and sold what was his father's homestead about 1745 to Phinehas Putnam, the great grandfather of the present occupant."

A query arises—was the "new home in the old Bay State" to which the bridal party came with cows and sheep in Medford or Danvers? The Louisburg expedition was in the spring of 1745. Was the veteran of Louisburg from Danvers or Medford?

We are inclined to answer to both queries, Danvers: as he owned property there and was one of the tellers at Danvers March meeting in 1752. He was taxed in Charlestown 1756-65, and taught school "without the neck," where he was styled "gentleman" and "from Danvers." He was in 1763 administrator of the estate of his son John, "late of Charlestown," and was then called "gentleman" and "of Charlestown."

It has been suggested that he joined in Medford, the Danvers minute men who marched from Danvers to Cambridge (*i.e.* Menotomy or West Cambridge) 16 miles in 4 hours, taking stand in a walled enclosure with a breastwork of shingles, waiting the retreating British.

Genl. Israel Putnam was in the same generation, their fathers being cousins.

This latter gathered from *Putnam Ancestry* (1919).

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### THEN AND NOW.

Seventeen years ago coal was selling for nineteen dollars per ton in Medford—the winter of the "coal famine"—until by the action of President Roosevelt there was a temporary get-together of conflicting parties, coal-barons and mine workers. At that time, two Medford writers gave expression to their thoughts. The first (to us unknown) as follows:

Some days I built a fire of coke and in the kitchen sat :  
It rose to twenty cents a bag and mighty scarce at that ;  
Then wood I gleaned from everywhere, I borrowed, bought and  
stole —

A runmage sale's not in it with a winter without coal.  
The furniture, the fence, the trees, and all that I most prize  
I burned, and as a last resort, I took to exercise.

Oh, Morgan, and oh, Mitchell, we prayed you, "still the storm,  
Allow our honest people their hearts and hearths to warm."  
A fairer and a stronger man than you our danger recognized,  
And when he spoke you listened and your power exercised.  
And now the burden of our song shall ever gladly be,  
"The land of Teddy Roosevelt is good enough for me."

Doubtless there are many housewives in Medford  
today that can join with the other "mistress of the manse"  
in the following :

Poor Father Noah in pensive mood  
Is gazing o'er the sea,  
For weighty problems fill his brain  
Of nations yet to be.  
His little ark is high and dry  
Upon Mount Ararat.  
And would that we from turmoil free  
Beside old Noah sat,  
No thoughts to turn  
On coal to burn.

Does it not seem now as though little progress had  
been made in seventeen years, that it is still possible for  
like conditions to exist? Thoughtful people, from Med-  
ford, Mass., to Medford, Oregon, will do well to look  
into this matter, find and apply a remedy, and make the  
land of Lincoln and Roosevelt good enough—and  
better.

### THE SOCIETY'S BUILDING ENTERPRISE.

Mention was made of this in our issue of July, 1916, under title of "A Forward Movement," and in others note made of progress. It is thought best to give in this, the following statement, thus of permanent record:

January, 1915, found our society (even after extra effort made), with a deficit of about \$116 in current and publication expenses. Our old home was still in serious need of repair, though much had recently been expended. As no other plan seemed feasible, the society had by vote decided to sell the same. The new administration found itself confronted with new and serious conditions immediately after the closing meeting of the season by its sale and our consequent removal. It had occupied the Lydia Maria Child house almost from its start, first as tenant, and later becoming proprietor, having paid therefor \$1,000, and mortgaging for \$3,000 at a low rate of interest. This mortgage the purchaser assumed and later paid, the society receiving \$1,500 for its equity in the property.

As the above thousand dollars was *donated to the society for that specific purpose*, an equal amount was deposited on interest for a similar use, leaving \$500, from which resultant expenses of sale and new expenses of administration had to be met. As the *new* item of rent was itself in excess of the society's income, it was evident that matters could not long thus continue. Various plans of relief were proposed, none of which on examination proved advisable, until in June, 1916, the directors recommended the society to acquire a permanent home by the purchase of land and erection of a building. This was adopted by the society by vote, and the matter referred to the directors for execution, with but one restriction, *viz.*, that no work be begun until \$1,000 had been pledged. This was strictly observed; but in the meantime circumstances had arisen that required a change of location and of plan. This entailed added expense and loss of several weeks of time most favorable for construction work.



The directors assumed responsibility and the society by vote approved their action. The building committee of five was soon reduced to three by the serious and continued illness of two of its number. It had already chosen one of its number (who had prepared the plans) superintendent of construction, who erected the building at absolute cost for the society, though in the stress of increasing difficulty, it is not yet wholly complete. It was deemed advisable to move into it at the earliest possible time, and in January this was done. Like some other tenants who find it "cheaper to move than pay rent," we had then a three months' unpaid bill which our landlord kindly waited for until we were enabled by our new year's dues to pay the same. At this time most of the pledges made to the building fund had been paid in and expended upon the work, and with the little in sight, for a time little was done other than by the superintendent. In the price of materials (when purchased) he found at first a little advance over estimates given a few weeks before, but nothing like that which has come later. As time elapsed, the turmoil of war in Europe involved America, and the raising of funds for our needs could make no headway amid the drives for Liberty Loans, Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., and our local charities. Our incurred bills were made no larger. *Some* were reduced a little, as *occasional* contributions were made, while our patient creditors waited our action.

In December, 1918, an effort was made to secure \$2,000 to complete the building and pay all outstanding bills. About one-half of the amount was pledged and partially paid in by April 1, 1919, when matters became complicated by a possible suit at law by one of the smaller creditors. Up to that (and present) time the entire cost (to the society) of the building and land is \$4,975\*, and the entire remaining indebtedness to ten creditors, \$1,682.12. To *nine* of these was owing the aggregate sum of \$604.51, in sums of from \$10 to \$158; all *balances of accounts*. As part of the money

\* Approximately.

had been received without conditions, it was the wish of the other creditor (whose account was *not a balance but his entire bill*) that the minor bills be paid, and the effort to raise the other thousand continued. At this juncture came an *insistent* demand for *immediate* settlement of *one* creditor's claim. Upon this, one of the directors immediately volunteered to take the matter of settlement in hand. His action resulted in a contribution to the fund by each *creditor*, of a sum equalling 45% of his claim, whereupon every claim was settled in full, as shown by the treasurer's vouchers.

By the foregoing it will be seen that the new home of the society on Governors avenue stands today with no encumbrance of debt, through the *kind forbearance of creditors for two years and their generous assistance at last*. This was preceded by the *conservation of earlier gifts*, and the generous aid of comparatively *few*, and those mainly of our membership. We could wish the *final result otherwise attained*, as we began the enterprise in good faith, and with perhaps an over-confidence in the *public spirit* of Medford. Our final pledges were expected to pay *all* bills. Had the society been subjected to a suit at law by *one* creditor, *all others* must have suffered. As a matter of fact, *all* readily acceded to that director's suggestion, and to them our thanks are due, and to all others who have aided in our work for the interests of Medford. It has been done without the instrumentality of a so-called "construction" which means *de-struction* loan. Every penny of every contribution thereto is accounted for, and obtained value. To those skeptical ones who "must be shown," those who *perhaps* really think we "had no need" of a home, and that "it was all the creation of one mind"—to such especially it should be evident that under the conditions that came and now are, the following statement is pertinent. Had the enterprise *not* been launched when it was, the society would today truly be, as one said of it at the sale of the old home,—*homeless and friendless*.

**THE REGISTER'S TWENTY-SECOND VOLUME.**

With the present issue the REGISTER closes its twenty-second volume. It bears date of December, but owing to adverse conditions, will not reach its readers till the new year has dawned. Published by the Historical Society as a part of its work, it has in twenty-two years preserved for reference and public information nearly all the papers prepared for and read at the meetings. In recent years there have been fewer of local interest thus presented, but the REGISTER has gathered otherwise much that will be valuable to the future historian of Medford. Prior to 1855, the time of Mr. Brooks' writing, there had been comparatively few town histories written. It was then a source of regret that the work was not earlier begun.

These twenty-two volumes contain 2,344 pages, exclusive of title pages, index and illustrations. Their publication has been a labor of love on the part of writers and editors, and an expense to the society which has but a limited income, and which is itself none too well appreciated by the city at large. Several times the question of discontinuance has been raised; yet the REGISTER has continued to appear, though sometimes belated. On one occasion an annual deficit was prevented by the timely gift of one hundred dollars, by a grandson of a former Medford clergyman.

The town in 1855 from its treasury assisted Mr. Brooks in his publication, and in 1886, Mr. Usher more largely in his. For *his* careful work in 1905, Mr. Hooper received *no remuneration whatever*, nor has the Historical Society ever (contrary to current impression) received any financial aid in its work from the city of Medford, in either its publication or its building enterprise.

The present editor has served nearly eleven years, and must of necessity be relieved ere long. For several years he has performed the duties of publication committee, starting with a deficit of over one hundred dollars, but trusting to close the present year with a prac-

tically clean balance sheet. There has been much *said* of "civic pride" and "public spirit," which are desirable in many ways, but in the REGISTER's experience its best appreciation comes from abroad rather than from the community it has tried to serve.

The Society is reluctant to cease its issue, but it *must have a better support.*

## THE SOCIETY'S MEETINGS.

### SEASON OF 1918-1919.

OCTOBER 2, 1918, at the opening meeting of the season, some twenty-five persons were present to hear Representative Fred Burrell, who spoke upon the Constitutional Convention and the Amendments.

NOVEMBER 21 was the largest attended gathering, when Mrs. A. T. Hatch, of West Medford, told of her work and experience overseas in France.

DECEMBER 16th meeting was styled a Council Fire, and was a retrospect by members of the incidents and doings of the Society during the past two years, and some plans were formulated to be worked out. Light refreshments were served.

JANUARY 21, 1919. The annual meeting was given to the reports and election of officers. The former board was reflected, with this exception: the curator and librarian, Miss Lincoln, was transferred to the vice-presidency, and Vice-President Remele was chosen to take charge of our library and collection.

FEBRUARY 17. Rev. G. Bennett Van Buskirk of Trinity Church gave a timely and interesting talk on "Three Eminent Americans—Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt." Light refreshments were served by the Hospitality Committee.

MARCH 17 proved a cold and disagreeable day, affecting the attendance in some measure. The President read a paper of local interest, "The Story of an Ancient Cow Pasture," which was supplemented by reminiscences by members.

APRIL 23. Sag-my-nah Council, Camp Fire Girls, of West Medford, transferred their meeting to our assembly hall, an enjoyable occasion, and fully noted in the REGISTER.

MAY 19. President Charles Edward Mann, of Malden Historical Society, presented an interesting story of "A Scrap of Paper," in which a number of Medford and Malden men—long dead and gone—figured not a little.

## TERCENTENARY YEARS.

### PLYMOUTH, 1920

"At Cap-Codd

In ye name of God, Amen. . . .  
For ye glorie of God and advancemente of ye Christian faith, and honour of our King and countrie . . . we combine our selves together into a civill body politick" . . .

### MEDFORD, 1930

A FOREWORD

"Medford will fittingly observe that 300th birthday.

By earnest, faithful work . . . in the name of Him who dignified labor, do your best, . . . to make your citizenship true and noble."















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